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MARCH 2001

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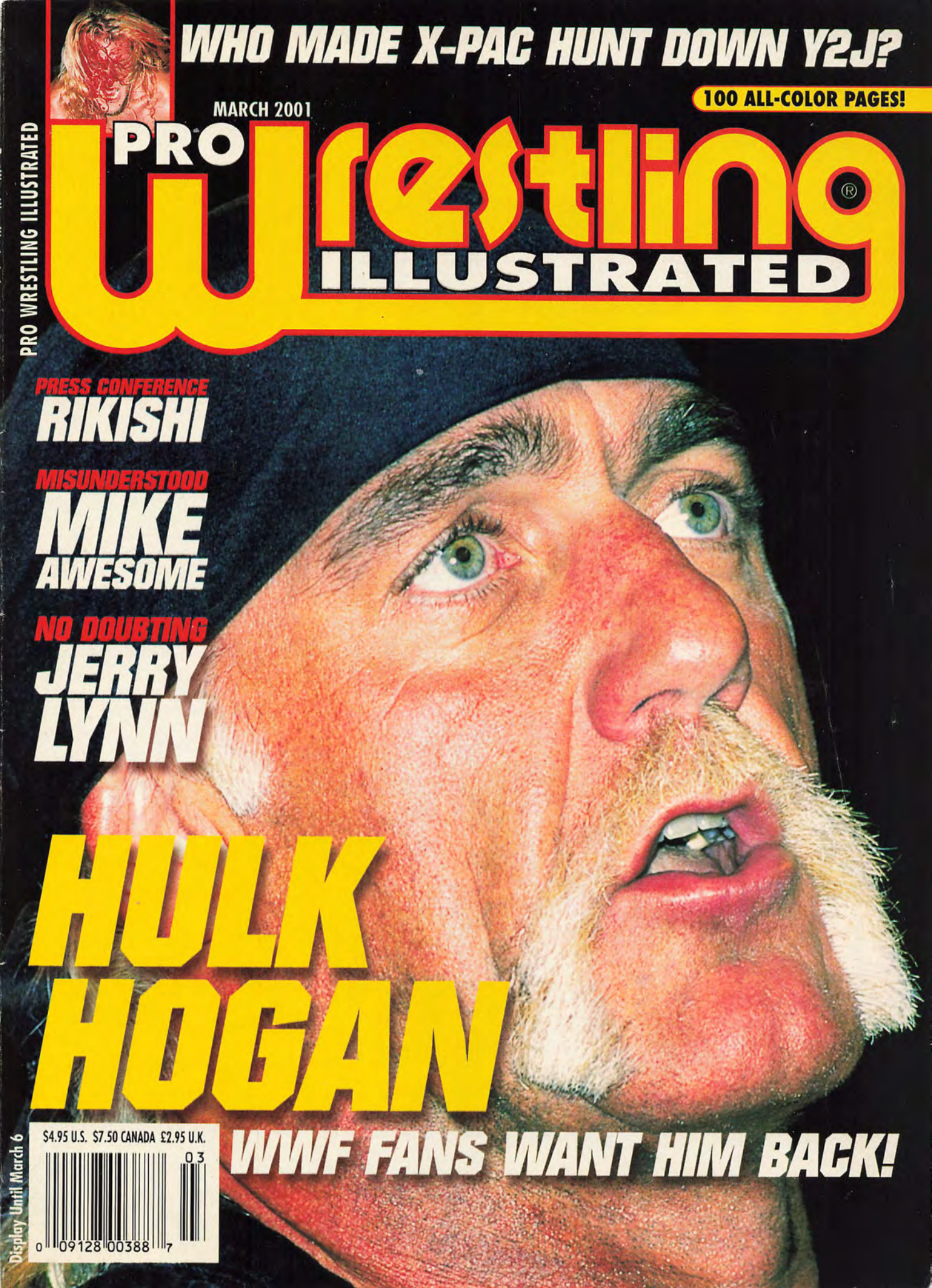

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If you didn't see it on 1wrestling.com, it probably wasn't true.

FROM THE DESK OF...

THE COVER OF of the Winter 1996 edition of *Wrestle America* featured caricatures of Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff and this headline: "Special Report: Who's Winning The Match Of The Century?"

The answer at the time was clear: Bischoff's caricature was smiling; McMahon, while clenching his mighty right fist, looked worried.

The question wouldn't even be posed today. The smile was long ago wiped off Bischoff's face; McMahon, at press time, was being presented with an opportunity to swallow 95 percent of the U.S. wrestling market in one gulp.

Presumably, by the time this issue reaches your hands, we will already know if McMahon did indeed purchase his erstwhile rival from Time Warner, so it is useless to address questions here that should already be answered. Still, I am drawn to that issue of *Wrestle America*, because five years ago we speculated about things that at the time seemed so farfetched, yet today are quite relevant. In a feature entitled "It Could Happen: A Look At The Future Of The WWF-WCW War," we wrote these speculative headlines:

TIME WARNER SELLS WCW (TO VINCE McMAHON?)

Even though it is pulling down great ratings and its pay-per-view numbers are on the rise, one must not assume, given its huge payroll and production costs, that WCW generates large profits for Turner Broadcasting. Time Warner could put the promotion up for sale to the highest bidder. The person who would value the promotion more than anybody is ... Vince McMahon. While the WWF is having money problems of its own, McMahon has connections, and those connections have connections. All those connections could raise a great deal of capital. Time Warner could also shut down the operation. Remember, it's a large corporation that has very little interest in the long history of WCW.

COMMENT: Obviously, the circumstances changed: WCW most definitely is not generating a profit, Vince McMahon is no longer having money problems, and his means to raise capital turned out to be the WWFE stock offering, but Vince is still the man who is in the best position to prosper in a monopolistic environment.

HULK HOGAN RETURNS TO THE WWF

Despite the harsh words exchanged between the "Hulkster" and Vince McMahon in recent years, it is possible that Hogan will someday return to the place where "Hulkamania" was born. Whether he's a fan favorite or a rulebreaker, where Hogan goes, the spotlight follows, and he knows it.

COMMENT: So does Vince McMahon. And obviously, based on the cover of this issue, we and the fans know it, too. We'll never see a series between McMahon and Bret Hart, but wouldn't Hogan vs. McMahon be awesome?

CONTINUING WWF CONTROVERSY TURNS AWAY ADVERTISERS

Some parents are reluctant to allow their children to watch. And if children and their parents are not watching, advertisers will be more hesitant to hawk their wares on WWF shows. No advertisers means no revenue and no major sponsors for pay-per-views. The WWF simply cannot afford that. The WWF might want to clean up its act a bit.

COMMENT: The WWF got even raunchier before Coke, Mars, the U.S. Coast Guard, AT&T, and others did indeed pull their ads. The WWF responded with a cleaner version of *Smackdown*, yet Burger King pulled out in October. With so much at stake, McMahon had better find out how to stay on the right side of the fine line between attitude and decency.

WCW OR THE WWF SECURES A NETWORK TELEVISION DEAL

Cable ratings for wrestling are high, and when something works on cable, the networks take notice. Given that the competition between the Big Two is so intense, a network deal for one could tip the balance of power, as it did 10 years ago for the WWF.

COMMENT: The Viacom deal cemented what the honchos at Time Warner pretty much already knew. The best way to boost ratings on TBS and TNT is to let the master provide the programming.

Stu Saks
Publisher

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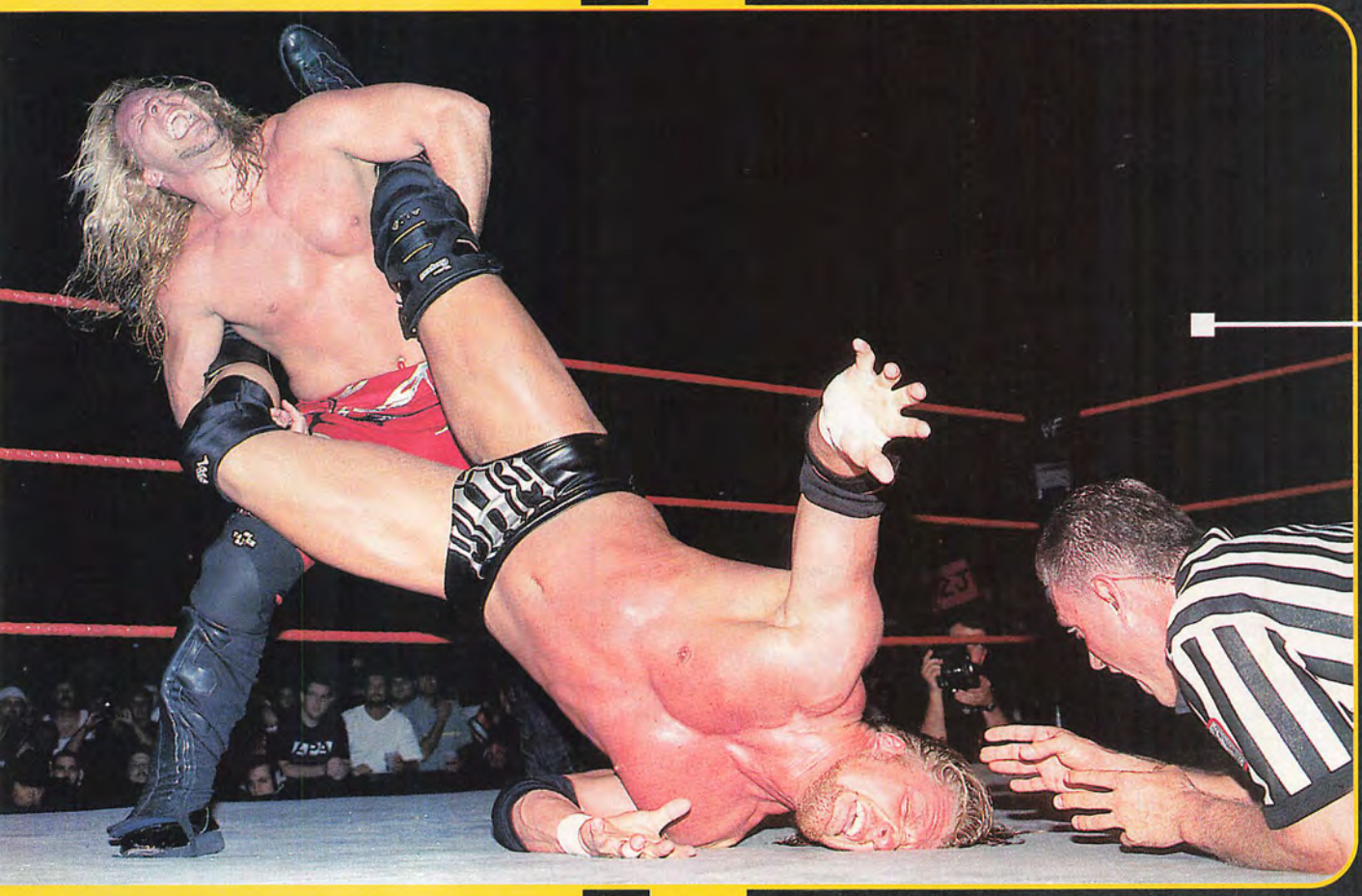

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MARCH 2001

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before the bell

Compiled by
Dave Lenker & Will Welsh

WITH THE WWF, WHO NEEDS THE LIBRARY?

What dish does D-Von Dudley say will make you testify? Why the heck was Tommy Top, the tallest elf, running in the nude? According to Jim Ross, what stew makes for good eating (and probably good stinking) during a long car trip with your buddies? What really went on between Val Venis and Mrs. Claus?

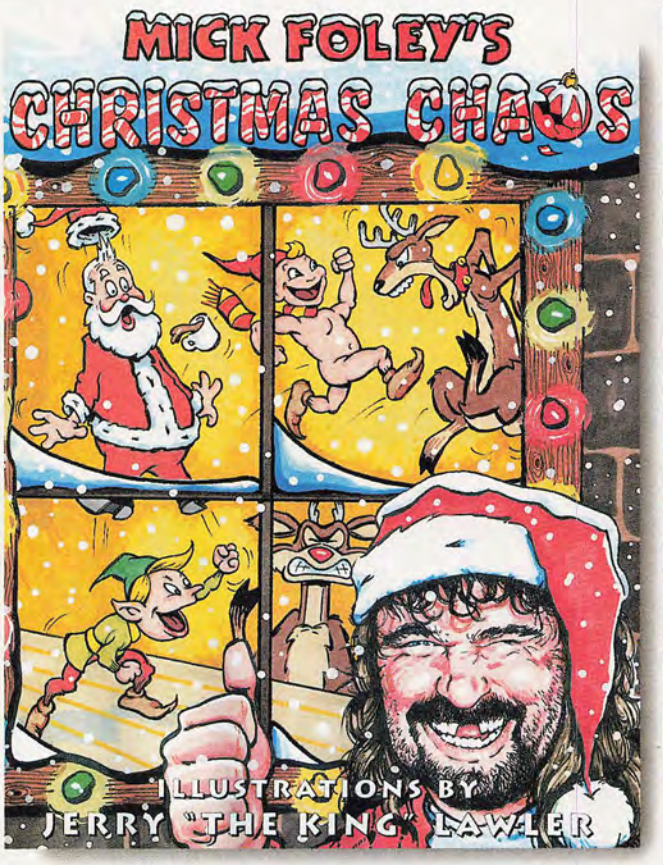
No, these queries are not our normal fare. Something about them strikes us a bit odd—and we're the ones who wrote them. But if you really need to know the answers to these profound, life-changing questions, all you have to do is head to your local bookseller and pick up the WWF's two latest literary contributions: *Mick Foley's Christmas Chaos* and *Can You Take The Heat?* Both are published by Regan Books.

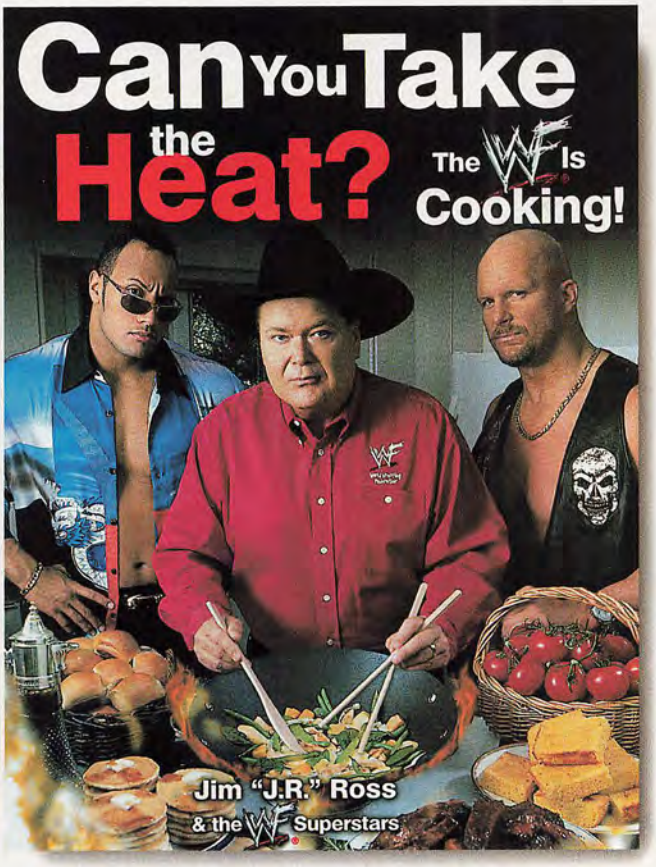
What are the two books about? Well, the best way to describe *Mick Foley's Christmas Chaos* is to say that it's a splendid mix of Shakespearian comedy and Greek tragedy, with just a bit of Machiavellian acuity thrown in to spice things up.

Yeah, right.

Instead, just imagine a real twisted version (emphasis on *real*) of Dr. Seuss' *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. That should paint the (in)appropriate picture.

Written by the WWF commissioner himself and illustrated by Jerry "The King" Lawler, *Christmas Chaos* is a tale of





Christmas gone awry—so awry, in fact, that WWF superstars are called in to save the holiday.

WWF superstars and Christmas? Perhaps the book should have been titled *Mick Foley's XXX-Mas Chaos*, instead.

The book, which is an awfully funny read, might not be suited for younger readers. With some adult overtones (one of which is Val Venis' attempted seduction of Mrs. Claus), parents would be wise to preview the book before handing it over to their littler would-be wrestlers.

Parents would also be wise to taste test the recipes from *Can You Take The Heat?* before serving them up with the next family meal. Who knows how Vince's Big Broiled Grapefruits would look plopped in between the eggs and bacon.

Although, with a knowledge of how to prepare Vince's Grapefruits just so, every aspiring Titan Tower chef will be well-prepared for his or her next WrestleMania party. And with recipes for Mick Foley's Knuckle Sandwiches, Stone-Cold's Texas Toast, Grilled Steak Benoit, and Crash Holly's Jell-O Shooters, among a host of other delectable entrees, appetizers, and deserts, *Can You Take The Heat?* should be found in every WWF fan's kitchen.

Besides, can you imagine *not* knowing how to cook Hardcore Holly's Big Beefy Meatballs given the opportunity?

"I'D LIKE TO THANK THE ACADEMY ..."

Okay, so it's not exactly an Academy Award. Or an Emmy. Or a Tony. Or a Clio. Or even a damn Slammy.

But if someone at Universal Studios Hollywood called you and asked you to come out to this way cool theme park in California and accept your EyeGore Award, you'd do it—if for no other reason than to find out exactly what the hell an EyeGore is.

For the record, it's an award that honors those who make significant contributions to the world of horror. Every year, Universal Studios opens its Halloween Horror Nights event by presenting EyeGores to deserving ghouls and goblins.

One of the honorees in 2000 was our favorite American bad ass, The Undertaker. Also taking home statuettes with little gargoyles on top (wouldn't one look great on *your* mantle?) last year were rocker/screenwriter/director Rob Zombie and Oscar-nominated actress Karen Black (both of whom posed with 'Taker), as well as *Titanic* star Gloria Stuart and the cast and creators of the WB's *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*.

Those who showed up at Universal on Friday the 13th (of October) not only got to see Undertaker honored, but also had a chance to go through "The Undertaker: No Mercy," the very first theme park attraction based on a WWF star. Universal said the maze would—now get this—"spin guests through The Undertaker's biographical bedlam of suffocating, oppressive darkness and terror."

How's that for hype?

Inside the maze was an embalming room made to look like the one in his parents' mortuary and the spooky chamber that served as 'Taker's first playground, where those taking the tour could "witness the fiery explosion that resulted in his parents' violent death" and even "flash forward through his brutal formative years" and meet his half-brother Kane (not the real deal, of course).

Hey, nobody said Halloween was supposed to be a *feel-good* kind of holiday, right?

THE STUPID FILES

[Editor's Note: We thought about including the following Kevin Nash quote in the "We Heard That" section of "Before The Bell," but after bandying it about the office, we concluded it was a much better fit for "The Stupid Files."]

•During WCW's two-week tour of Australia, Kevin Nash granted an interview to Australia's *A Current Affair*, during which he expounded upon his dedication to the business:

"The only two things that are real in this business are the miles and the money … you go to work, show up late, show up half-hammered, go out there and say a couple of corny lines, slam a couple of guys, go back to the bar, and finish the day off *(laughs)*. And they pay you a truckload of money."

How heartwarming. To have enough confidence in oneself to go out and proclaim the career that has made you millions upon millions of dollars is just a bunch of schlock, well, that's pretty darn inspirational. Motivational speaker Tony Robbins would do well to take notes from big Kev.

Seriously, what's "Big Sexy's" problem? The guy barely appears on house shows, and when he actually does wrestle, he brags about how lazy (and rich) he is?

It sure must be nice to collect a check the size of Nash's without putting in much effort.

Isn't Nash, as one of WCW's elder statesmen, supposed to be one of the guys the young up-and-comers look to for inspiration? Isn't he supposed to rally the troops by giving a strong effort every night? If Nash isn't dedicated while making the big money, why should the per-nighters and the guys on the low end of the pay scale give a damn?

•Fame is a funny thing. When you have it, it becomes all-encompassing. If you're not on the set of a Hollywood studio, you're out on the town trying to enjoy a quiet dinner while doing your best to elude the shutter-clicking paparazzi. In many cases, those with fame end up lamenting the fact they have it.

Then you have the once-famous individual who will do everything in his or her power to reclaim said fame. Right now, Rena Mero, formerly known as the WWF's Sable, is floating in that crowded, water-logged dingy. Surprisingly, there are those out there who are willing to assist her in this ill-advised quest.

Just recently, Mero signed with TidalWave Studios and Image Comics to allow her likeness to be used as the main heroine of its new comic book, *The 10th Muse*.

"To date, Greek mythology has documented nine Muses, the inspirational daughters of the almighty god, Zeus," explained Darren Davis, president of TidalWave Studios, and creator of the comic book. "The 10th Muse introduces Emma Sonnet, the forgotten Muse, who uses her powers from birthright to battle evil in the courtroom by day and shadows at night. This project is a new kind of superhero sage unlike anything else on the market."

You can say that again.

If Davis is expecting Reno's fame to propel the comic book's sales, he might want to check out her current Q rating—if he can find it. Since leaving wrestling, Mero (and her name) have just about disappeared.

Davis would have been smart to draw a character similar-looking to Mero (pick up a few comic books and tell us all the 38DD heroines with the two-inch waists don't all look like Mero anyway) and then spend the money he saved on an advertising campaign of some sort. Because unless you're a diehard comic book fan, "The Stupid Files" might be the only place you're going to see this story get any coverage.

(continued on page 10)

HARD TO THE CORE!
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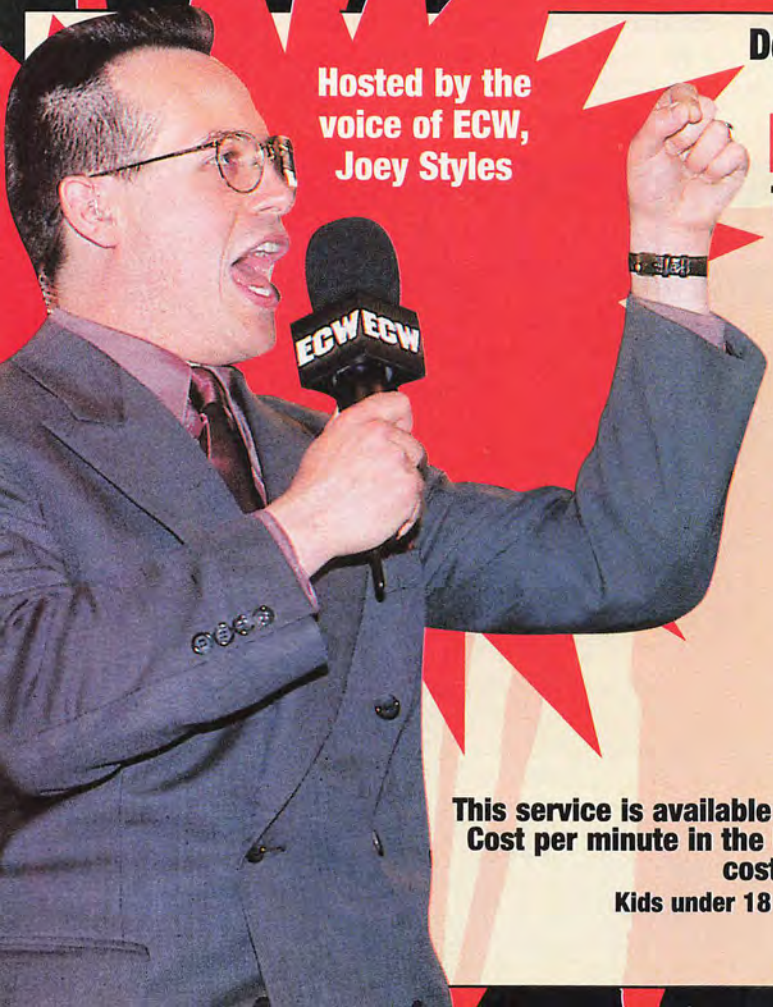

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WE HEARD THAT!

"I have done more things in the context of professional wrestling—I'm sorry, sports entertainment—than anybody else has, and more unusual things in the context of sports entertainment that you would not expect to see. I try to put the 'entertainment' in sports entertainment."

—Al Snow in an interview on WWF.com

"In September 1995, Kevin Sullivan called and said, 'Are you still fat and can you wrestle?' I said 'yes' to both questions. The next day, I was in Macon, Georgia, standing face-to-face with Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff."

—WCW's Gen. Rection, about signing with WCW, on wrestlingobserver.com

"The training itself was harder than I could ever describe. Unbelievable. I'll put it this way: Thousands entered, four survived. Myself, Chris Chetti, my partner, Roadkill, and Tom Marquez."

—ECW's Danny Doring, discussing the training at ECW's House of Hardcore, in an interview on 1wrestling.com

"Vince [McMahon] knows how to run a wrestling company. He knows how to attract goons."

—Howard Stern, during his radio show

"All of a sudden something goes off—I'm not eloquent enough to explain it."

—Vince McMahon, discussing his creative genius in *Fortune* magazine

"It was more of a short sprint right into a brick wall … The office when I was there was way too interested in keeping the older guys happy than using the younger talent and developing new stars. I guess I can look at it like a 10-month vacation. But it was a very miserable time."

—ECW's Mikey Whipwreck, about his run in WCW, on wrestlescene.com

caption me!

Think you're a better writer than the editors here at *PWI?* Here's your chance to prove it, punk! This picture of a not-so-strong Dave Patera (obviously no relation to former Olympian Ken Patera) straining to power-bomb the rather weighty Scott Furie (on first view of the photo, Stu Saks thought Furie was an elephant—we're not kidding) needs a short, concise, and downright uproarious caption. If you think you're up to the task, e-mail your delectable little quips to PWIFocus@aol.com or throw a 33-cent stamp on an envelope and make the postal workers of America slave even harder for their money by mailing your suggestions to "Caption Me!" Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Three months from now, we'll share with you the best of the bunch—and the funnier the better.

P.S. We realize we initially said the time period between the printing of a "Caption Me!" and the subsequent release of the best captions received would be two months. Well, what can we say other than "We goofed!" Next month, the first installment of the captions will come marching through *PWI*, so keep your pants on and relax! It's not the end of the world! □

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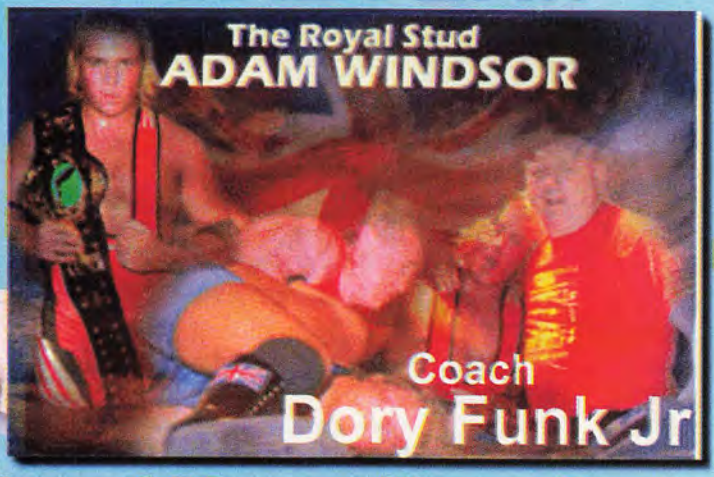

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RINGSIDE

With Will Welsh

"WILL **VINCE McMAHON** purchase WCW?"

Undoubtedly, that was the wrestling industry's most asked question as this issue went to press.

With the expected merger of America Online and Time Warner only weeks away as of press time, Time Warner was looking to sell WCW and its expected $80-million fiscal loss before the deal was to be finalized. Rumors swirled about possible buyers for WCW from the minute it was learned it was up for sale. For a time, Mandalay Sports, spearheaded by former WCW President **Eric Bischoff**, seemed the most logical choice. Given Bischoff's close association with Turner/Time Warner and the deep pockets of Mandalay, it almost seemed a no-brainer that a deal would be made between the two companies. But as quickly as rumors of a Mandalay purchase of WCW arose, so did rumors of a much stronger suitor: the WWF. Almost overnight, talk in the industry was that Mandalay was out and McMahon was in. A couple of quick pen strokes here, a couple of handshakes there, and WCW would be McMahon's.

Then everybody woke up.

Would McMahon make such a considerable financial investment with another risky commodity, the XFL, set to launch in a few months? Would McMahon check his considerable ego at the door to help the deal get done? What about Viacom? How would it react to the WWF providing programming for TBS and TNT only months after having paid millions of dollars to get the exclusive rights to WWF programming?

Suddenly, there were more roadblocks than thoroughfares.

How would you like to sit across the negotiating table from Vince McMahon, especially when he's dealing from a position of total power. Well, ask the people at Time Warner. They have found out.

So what does all this add up to? Quite honestly, I'm stumped.

I can, however, give you the three most likely scenarios:

The WWF purchases WCW. This would easily be the biggest story in professional wrestling history. If McMahon buys WCW, the wrestling landscape as we know it will be forever changed—and not necessarily for the better. But that's a whole other column in its own right.

Mandalay Sports purchases WCW. Bischoff may be out of the picture for now, but a two-dollar easel and a few paint-by-numbers sets and he's back in. And if I know this man as well as I think I do, he wants WCW just as much as McMahon. As Bischoff has shown in the past, he's never to be counted out.

Time Warner doesn't sell to anybody and AOL dissolves the company after the merger. In my view, perhaps the most likely scenario of the three. McMahon, for reasons too numerous to mention, is far from a lock to buy the company. Mandalay was a player at first, but something must have struck the people at Time Warner funny or the purchase would have gone down. What's changed since then? And if WCW is a Time Warner company at the time of the merger, you can believe the people at AOL are going to dissolve the company quicker than you say, "You've got mail."

Almost a year and a half after **Owen Hart** fell 78 feet to his death during the Over the Edge pay-per-view in Kansas City, Missouri, the Hart family agreed to settle its wrongful death lawsuit against the WWF for a reported $18-million.

The WWF and the Hart family "have come to an amicable agreement satisfactory to the parties, and the WWF will now continue the case against the entities which manufactured and sold the stunt equipment involved," said a

joint statement released by both parties.

Though the Harts and the WWF may never again share an amicable relationship, the resolution of the legal matters pertaining to Owen's death should help close the wounds of all involved.

In other news involving the Hart family, former WCW and WWF world heavyweight champion **Bret Hart** has officially retired from the sport. The following is taken from his official retirement statement:

"It is with deep regret and sadness that I officially announce that my career as a professional wrestler is over ... forever. Due to the severity of the numerous concussions I received in late-December 1999 and early-January 2000 as the reigning WCW World champion, my doctors have advised me that any physical return to the ring would hold serious consequences for me. So, after great deliberation, it has become clear that it is best for me, my family, and my fans that I say goodbye."

(Editor's note: For more on Bret's retirement, turn to page 14 and read ***Dave Lenker's*** *"In Focus" column.)*

The days of Bret Hart suiting up and looking like the gallant warrior in the pink and black are over. After getting fired from WCW, the "Hitman" retired due to post-concussion syndrome.

More than 11 years after **Genichiro Tenryu** captured his first All-Japan Triple Crown by defeating then-champion **Jumbo Tsuruta**, Tenryu captured his second Triple Crown by defeating **Toshiaki Kawada** in a tournament final on October 28.

Tenryu's win immediately became one of *puroresu's* most historic victories ever, as Tenryu became the first man to hold both the Triple Crown and IWGP heavyweight titles in the course of one year. It was only this summer that Tenryu jumped from New Japan back to All-Japan to help stabilize the company following the **Mitsuharu Misawa**-led defection of 30 of All-Japan's top stars to Misawa's new group, Pro Wrestling NOAH.

"Earlier this year, I never would have dreamed that I would win a second Triple Crown, but sometimes things happen for a reason," Tenryu said after the win. "I stand here before you a very proud man, a man proud to be All-Japan's Triple Crown champion. I hope to re-establish the Triple Crown's position as the world's most preeminent championship."

In a related item, New Japan is planning a tournament to crown a new IWGP heavyweight champion (IWGP champ **Kensuke Sasaki** relinquished the title after losing a non-title match to Kawada in late-October). Amazingly enough, Tenryu is slated to compete in the tournament and is the odds-on favorite to win the title given his defeat of Kawada in the Triple Crown tournament. Will we see a unified All-Japan/New Japan champion? From the looks of things, it's certainly possible.

XPW is making news again, but this time not at ECW's expense. **Sabu**, the XPW heavyweight champion, has signed to defend the title against Japanese hardcore legend **Atsushi Onita** in an exploding death match. During the press conference to announce the match, Sabu and Onita fought wildly throughout the room, injuring a reporter and starting a small fire in the process.

"I will hurt Sabu," Onita said. "He is not a worthy champion, and I will prove it by humbling him in front of his American fans. Then I will return to Japan as the XPW champion."

What does **Ivory**, the newest member of **Right To Censor**, really think about the current state of the WWF?

"It's deplorable, Will, absolutely deplorable. To think that WWF executives encourage pure athletic talents such as **The Rock** and **Lita** to go out and flaunt their sexuality sickens me. To think that WWF executives encourage **'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin** and others to go around using profanity and obscene gestures sickens me. I find it hard to believe that the youth of today enjoy seeing the filth that is the WWF, but they do. But it's my job as a member of Right To Censor to make sure the corruption ends. And I take my job seriously."

I wonder ... are the sexy pictures of a scantily clad Ivory found on wwfdivas.com suddenly going to disappear? Let's hope not.

Some guys work hard and get nowhere in life. Others hardly work and have everything handed to them. Then there are those who work hard and get rewarded for their efforts. **Gen. Rection** is a member of that last group.

On the October 30 *Nitro*, while being interviewed by **Gene Okerlund** about winning the U.S. heavyweight title from **Lance Storm** the night before at Halloween Havoc, Rection was confronted by a group of about 30 musclebound wrestlers,

(Continued on page 80)

In focus

By Dave Lenker

Bret Hart may have done a lot of complaining about the wrestling business during the last few years, but it is a shame that he couldn't end his career in a more memorable fashion.

THE END

There were no cheers, no boos, no tears of joy or sadness. No special ceremony. No tribute video. No standing ovation from an arena full of appreciative fans. Not even one final emotional walk from the ring.

We all know how seriously Bret Hart took his wrestling career, and for that reason alone, he deserved a big sendoff when he decided to quit. He didn't get one. In fact, it looks like he didn't get to decide when it was time for him to quit. His local Federal Express man let him know his WCW career was over.

All the speculation about Bret Hart being fired by WCW turned out to be true, as in late-October, the "Hitman" received his termination notice via FedEx. Not the way the career of a man who invested so much of himself in the wrestling business for so long should come to its conclusion.

About a week after he was fired by WCW, he made it official on his Web site. His doctors thought it would be too risky for him to return to the ring. It was over for him regardless of what WCW decided to do.

Even if he were healthy, what options did he have left after WCW? ECW? Japan? A return to the WWF would make for a huge story, but would Bret ever be able to do that given all he has said about Vince McMahon during the last three years? I can't imagine.

So very, very quietly, this five-time WWF World champion, two-time WCW World champion, two-time WWF Intercontinental champion, four-time WCW U.S. champion, two-time WWF World tag team champion, one-time WCW World tag team champion, and two-time number-one man in the *"PWI* 500" retired.

A lot of you might say his last appearance in a major federation was a fitting one. Remember the September 5 *Thunder?* If for some odd reason *Thunder* isn't on your list of must-see TV shows, that was the night Bret ripped into Bill Goldberg for giving him a concussion at Starrcade that he still hasn't shaken and the night Bret ripped into WCW for cutting his pay and generally treating him horribly since he suffered the injury. That was the "Hitman" at his most bitter, and Hart had, after all, degenerated into nothing more than a bitter, jaded, fading star, his critics reasoned. He made himself a much easier target when just a few days later, he complained in his *Calgary Sun* column that he was forced into cutting that promo and regretted doing it.

I've been pretty critical of Bret Hart in this column before, but I have to feel sorry for him at this point. No one should be fired because he's been slow to recover from an injury incurred on the job. And no one should have to go through what Bret had to endure during the last three years.

It's too bad we won't get to see him go out with one last great match or one last memorable, heartfelt speech. Maybe some people in Calgary will organize a tribute to Bret and honor him for all the good he has done.

Even if that happens, most of the American people who are or were among Bret's biggest fans will be left with a negative lasting image of a man who really did do a lot of good for the wrestling business over the last 25 years.

That's a real shame for a man who wanted so much to be a hero.

STRANGE STUFF FROM BUFF

I present the following excerpts from an interview with Buff Bagwell on wrestlingobserver.com as proof that WCW needs to be *completely* overhauled by someone with the grapefruits of a Vince McMahon:

"I've seen this business, and it's pretty brutally amazing what [WCW is] doing about five guys, including myself, who can be considered top talent guys. They've just completely broken them. It's just like, 'We submit.' Are we fired or not? Are we going to work or not? Is McMahon going to buy us or not? Just let us know.

"Obviously, now they've got fines for us being late. Did [management] think that's our [profanity] problem? They've got talent on TV that nobody [profanity] knows, but they're going to fine us if you're a minute late? If it's 2:01 and you're supposed to be there a 2:00, it's $500. It's ridiculous, man.

"Luger and DDP make $1-million-plus. I missed my big raise because of my neck injury (in 1998). I was in the hospital when the big raises were given out and guys got their big bumps. Bischoff was fired before I could get my raise. (Bill) Busch was gonna bump me, but he never did because he got fired. Out of all the 'A' talent, I can say this with confidence: I was the only guy that is, A) Up for a raise, B) Definitely underpaid as far as a talent goes."

Regarding problems he had with WCW management after asking for his release following the New Blood pay-per-view: "They said to give them 24 hours. Twenty-four hours go by and they call back and say, 'We'll give Buff his release, but he's got to sign a 30-day no-compete clause' ... I tell my lawyer ... 'We're not going to do it. I'll sit home, let them pay me, and I'll go to McMahon in six months.'"

Yes, boys and girls, WCW was in very bad shape this fall. TV ratings continued to tumble, attendance figures were frighteningly low in some towns, and pay-per-view buy rates barely registered. There was reason for wrestlers to be frustrated and negative.

However, you really have to wonder just how much of this mess is the fault of management. The wrestlers who get sent home generally aren't the ones who work too hard or are positive influences in the locker room. And if I'm only working two or three days per week at most as a wrestler and getting paid six figures, I'm going to show my employer a little respect and be on time every single day.

Two men who have had their share of problems with WCW management recently—Buff Bagwell and Lex Luger—do battle. Some of the comments Bagwell made during a recent interview were definitely eye-opening.

I'm also *not* going to demand a huge raise on that already huge salary when the company is losing a ton of money, especially if I've never main-evented a single pay-per-view in my life.

Instead, I think I'm going to take a good, hard look at my career and consider what things might be like in the future if others don't share the high opinion I have of myself.

(Have a comment or question about "In Focus" or anything else you see in ***PWI?*** *You can contact Dave Lenker via e-mail at PWIFocus@aol.com.)* □

Off the TOP ROPE

By Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA
19034

Or send e-mail to:
OffTheTopRope
@yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

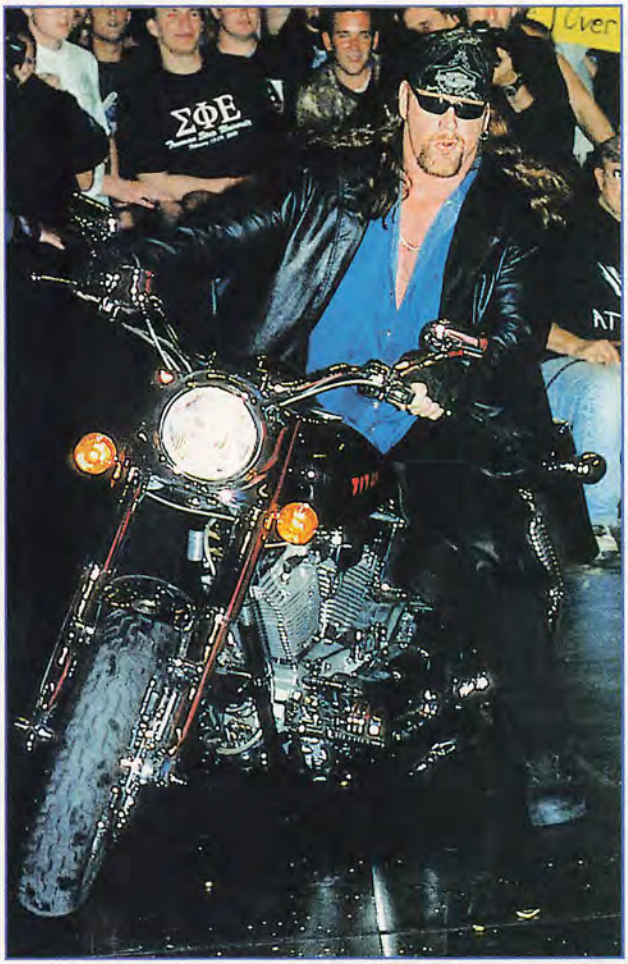
I'M IN A Willy Wonka sort of mood this month. But instead of seeing chocolatey goodness when I gaze upon my kingdom, I see pure chaos. How did the current state of wrestling evolve without most people noticing? There are some who claim to have known all along, but they are the same charlatans who claim to know how it will end. Only the wisest of us soothsayers admit that not one of us knows for sure how it will end.

By the time you read this, the chapter that includes three major promotions in the U.S. may be over. Who will sit on the throne of domination for the next chapter? My money is on King Vinnie Mac. Vince covets world domination and I think he'll get it, reducing WCW and ECW to mere memories in his wake. Good King Vince will collect every WCW and ECW wrestler he covets and give them all a warm place to live, just like Willy Wonka did for the Oompa Loompas.

But keep in mind that I am the only one with a golden ticket. It's wrapped around a Wonkabar and stuffed in a special place for safe keeping. I will never let it out of my grasp, because I am your champion.

Dearest Queen,

Once again the "*PWI* 500" has come and gone. I have every single one that you have put out, and may I say that this year's was easily the most informative and the best.



Let's see, bandana, long leather coat, motorcycle, tobacco juice dribbling down his beard. Yep, The Underredneck sure looks different now. He's so different, in fact, that he doesn't deserve to be listed in a top 10, let alone the *"PWI* 500."

But I noticed something. Ten years ago, *PWI* made a mistake. They left out one of the biggest stars at the time. Now, 10 years later, you have left out the same man. A man who has been a star ever since then.

What I am saying is this: Where the hell is The Undertaker? I'll admit, he hasn't had the greatest year, but he stills deserves to be ranked higher than Trailer Park Trash.

Like I said before, great issue, but if you keep forgetting The Undertaker, he might show you what an "American Bad Ass" is all about!

By the way, this is for Lenker: I know the Undertaker would never harm my Queen!

BOB BLEHSCHMIDT
ery4187@aol.com

Dear Bob,

There is a simple reason why The Undertaker was left out of this year's ranking: He barely wrestled. And now that I've seen his transformation into a human, I am glad that he's not ranked. Undie used to be feared, and rightfully so. I defy him to show me what his "American Bad Ass" self can do, because he has not impressed me since coming back from the dead. By becoming human, he obviously killed any mystique he once had. He used to be the creature feature that darkened the WWF with his demonic tendencies. Now, sans the white face paint and Paul Bearer, he's just a big red-headed redneck who likes to spit chewing tobacco. Heck, did we really need another Steve Austin?

Dear Ms. Mankiewicz,

A few years ago, there was an East Coast vs. West Coast war in music. Do you think that the same could happen between ECW and XPW? They did have an altercation not too long ago. What is your take on this situation?

CAMERON MARSHALL PELL
Exploder98Suplex@aol.com

Dear Pell,

The ECW-XPW battle differs from the bi-coastal music feud in many ways. The most glaring difference is that most of those involved with ECW and (to an extent) XPW are actually talented at what they do. Plus, while there were some words exchanged and some fists thrown, the infamous L.A. incident at ECW's HeatWave pay-per-view this summer was largely civil compared to the drive-by shooting deaths that marred the music feud. The Francine-Kristi Myst shoving match in no way reached the level of violence as Tupac Shakur and Biggie Small's deaths. Much like the rap war, I couldn't care less if ECW and XPW ever settle their differences.

Brandi:

Lex Luger should return to the World Wrestling Federation. Lex's WCW career has been going down the drain. Lex should be concentrating on his wrestling.

DAVE COX
coxdj@iccas.com

Dave,

Instead of trying to return to the WWF, I think Lex Luger should return to the Sleestak colony on *Land Of The Lost.* I hear Holly Marshall and Cha-ka have been looking for him.

Dear Brandi,

What do you think of Lita now that she's the WWF women's champion? Do you think the tittle will go anywhere, or will it be like the light heavyweight tittle and doing nothing at all?

DAVID ALLEN
natureboy@wwfwcw.com

Dear David,

***Hmmmmmm, tittle* instead of title. Interesting Freudian slip. Wonder what you're looking at when she's in the ring. Truthfully, I think very little of Lita, fake red hair and all. I will agree that she's a far better wrestler than most of the WWF's female crop, but then she's just patterning herself after her Hardy Boyz brethren, becoming a high-spot freak with little psychology. I think she shows her rookie status every time she steps into the ring. Sure, she has the belt, but her competition is pretty weak.**

Dear Brandi!

I was wondering if you could tell me what happened to Steve "Mongo" McMichael? I mean, it's like the guy just disappeared from the face of the planet. Not that I or anyone else cared or even noticed, but it was kind of strange for him to leave the scene so sudden, like don't you think? In my opinion, he was showing potential as a possible superstar, then he's nowhere to be found. Oh well! Thank you for your time.

TRAVIS KELLEY
depthsofdepravity@yahoo.com

Dear Travis,

I am surprised that I received your letter via e-mail since you show very little intelligence. I bet it was hard removing the crayon marks from your computer screen the first time around, wasn't it? And before you get all huffy about my comment, let me explain. Only an absolute idiot would think that Steve McMichael had any potential as a wrestler. I only regret that he didn't take his wrinkle cream princess Debra with him into obscurity.

Letter of the month (taken verbatim from the actual letter to share my torture with you all):

All Hail Her Majesty!

You humanoid morons make me wanna ralph! You don't realize just what royalty is all about and that OUR Queen is the epitomy of womanhood and the true definition of royalty! She is not only beautiful but also has something that your little trailer park trash bimbos could learn,it is Charisma!

Who really cares where "Mongo" went. Well, Travis Kelley cares. I guess someone has to. I know I don't.

Also humanoids, Queen Brandi is a consummate professional in all she says and does,and for those of you who can't deal with what Her Emminence says or does, then you need to evaluate your loser lives and realize that what I'm saying is true, Yes,it's true!

Again Morons,It's been YOUR pleasure!

RICK NIESKENS
Widowmaker119@yahoo.com

Dear Readers:

I just wanted to print this letter so the authorities would know whom to arrest when I get stalked. □

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

No tolerance for zero tolerance. My fellow journalists have succeeded in jamming another catchphrase down our collective throats. This time, the phrase is "zero-tolerance policy"—and it has become the slogan of the day. Lately, it's been used to describe matters pertaining to sports, politics, and law enforcement.

Even WWF Commissioner Mick Foley invoked a zero-tolerance policy to contain Steve Austin. Now, if a noted scribe can introduce such a thing to wrestling, you better believe I have a few wrestling-related items that I, too, can no longer tolerate:

Confronted with the choice of switching to the opening of *Raw's* first night on TNN or watching a WCW bikini contest, Frank Krewda chose the bikini contest. Unfortunately, he claims to have not seen enough of the participants, including Major Gunns.

Rikishi's ass. You probably thought an obscenely overweight man wearing a piece of dental floss up his huge rear was funny at first. But isn't it about time they put a pair of pants on this guy? We're expected to view him as a serious wrestler, but how can we when he's still dragging that ass around? And if he isn't doing the stink face anymore, why should we subjected to the spectacle?

WCW cameramen. Why is it whenever WCW stages one of its fraudulent bikini contests, the camera zooms in on the contestants' faces as soon as they disrobe? What's the point of airing a bikini contest if the home viewers can't see which parts are being contested. And why should Major Gunns or Torrie Wilson enter the ring in such an exaggerated and contorted manner if WCW won't show off their best assets?

WWF *Playboy* layouts. First Sable, now Chyna. Don't get me wrong, I like naked women. But these layouts are never as sizzling or as sexy as the WWF promises. That's not a criticism of the ladies, as both are certainly worthy of being in the magazine. But *Playboy* has a knack for air-brushing sex appeal right off the page. By the way, Jerry Lawler really needs some counseling. What can one man do with 200 copies of the same issue of *Playboy*?

Scott Hall. Actually, it's Kevin Nash I can't tolerate. There's nothing wrong with loyalty among friends, but Scott Hall is history. Lobbying for Hall's return on national TV is a waste of my time, and it's not as if Hall's ever been a model employee. Kev, if you want to get over with the fans again, try putting some effort into your matches instead of reminding us of what you did in 1996.

Natural Born Thrillers. There's nothing wrong with WCW committing to its young stars, but these guys are overexposed, both as a group and individually. I'm sorry, but Mike Sanders, Chuck Palumbo, and Shawn Stasiak get way too much air time—especially when Dallas Page and Hulk Hogan are sitting at home.

The Hardy Boys' hand gestures. These guys are the most exciting

wrestlers in the world, but what the hell are those prematch gyrations all about? They even have poor Lita doing them. Are they sending a message? Is it their way of warming up? Whatever it is, it looks very unnatural.

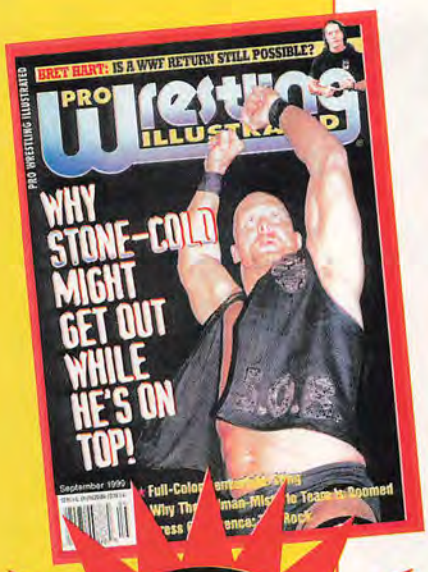
Heel referees. When I see a heel ref (or even a partisan ref) climb into the ring, I know one thing's coming: a screw job finish. I also know that I'll have to watch the ref take a predictable but poorly executed bump. Believe me, there is nothing special about special guest referees anymore.

ECW's mid-card. No offense to Swinger, Chris Hamrick, and E.Z. Money, but they're all the same guy. To make matters worse, Paul E. usually throws them in the ring at the same time. And when are Roadkill, Danny Doring, Chris Chetti, and Nova going to get a major push? Somebody better get one soon. From my view, the top tier is looking awfully thin.

• • •

Buzz cuts ... The first thing I noticed about Billy Gunn after his return to the WWF was his uncanny resemblance to Superstar Billy Graham. Then he cut his hair. Now he looks like Robert Fuller ... At this point, the worst thing ECW could do is put on a pay-per-view without Rob Van Dam on the card. I understand that postponing November to Remember until RVD returned from Thailand, where he was filming a movie, would have set a bad example and been nearly impossible to do, but I'm also sure there were a few ECW fans out there who didn't order the pay-per-view because "Mr. PPV" wasn't on the card. He's that much of a draw ... Leave it to Scott Steiner to get censored without even saying anything wrong. On a recent *Nitro*, "Big Poppa Pump" joined Tony Schiavone, Stevie Ray, and Mark Madden for some expert commentary at ringside. The first thing Steiner observed? The state of Torrie Wilson's skin. Standards and Practices freaked out with the audio block as Steiner said something to the effect that all the Clearasil in the world couldn't cure Torrie's acne. I'm sure one of the first things Wilson insisted upon when she signed with WCW was that discussing her dermatological misfortunes was off-limits ... Speaking of special concessions, wonder if Steve Austin had anything to do with Mick Foley naming "Stone-Cold's" new wife, Debra, the WWF's lieutenant commissioner. What the hell does a lieutenant commissioner do anyway? ... From all indications, Shawn Michaels seems ready to don the tights again just a few months after he personally assured me that his wrestling days were over. Just a thought: How long will it be before Ric Flair and Mick Foley follow HBK into early unretirement yet again? □

Why did Mick Foley name Debra, Steve Austin's brand new wife, lieutenant commissioner of the WWF? 'Cause "Stone-Cold" said so, that's why! Actually, we aren't certain about that, but Krewda is more than a bit curious.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June 1984: The Carnage Continues: Why The NWA Is Afraid To Stop Ted DiBiase. Centerfold: Dick Slater. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Magnum-II, Patera & Blackwell-Rock 'n' Rolls, One Man Gang.

February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness. Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.

April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

June 1985: Super Dream Contest: Play Dusty Rhodes' Trivia Game And Win His Boots! Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Flair-Kerry, Fabulous Ones-Road Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Magnum T.A.

November 1987: When The Going Gets Tough ... Will Nikita Koloff Turn Bad Again? Centerfold: George Steele. Plus: Road Warriors, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart, Barry Windham.

June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.

August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed. Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.

November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach? Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.

November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI. Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.

June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI Won't Settle This Feud. Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.

July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.

November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me." Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

March 1991 (Special Issue): 1990—The Year In Wrestling. 1990 In Review, Achievement '90 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1991.

April 1991: Sgt. Slaughter Guilty Of Treason! Centerfold: Tom Zenk. Plus: Sting, Magnum T.A., Jesse Ventura, Lawler-Gilbert, Hogan & Warrior.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter! Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.

August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.

October 1991: Sid Justice: The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan. Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Hogan-Slaughter, Terrence Taylor, Barry Windham, Williams-Bigelow.

November 1991: Your Wedding Gift For Savage & Elizabeth: Help Lift The "Macho Man's" Suspension! Centerfold: Bobby Eaton. Plus: Tito Santana, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman.

January 1992: Ric Flair: He'll Make Hulk Hogan Look Like An Amateur. Centerfold: Ron Simmons. Plus: Rick Steiner, Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger.

February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough? Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.

May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.

September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It

Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.

October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.

November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.

January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.

February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.

May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: The Undertaker. Plus: Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior.

April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil. Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.

May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.

October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.

Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.

February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.

April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.

February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.

March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Wrestling. 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.

April 1998: The DeGeneration X Debate: Will It Save Or Ruin The WWF? Centerfold: Ken Shamrock. Plus: Bret Hart, Undertaker-Kane, Melanie Pillman.

May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan: Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.

June 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.

July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better? Centerfold: Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.

October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.

December 1998: Gold Rush! Get Ready For The Most Awesome WCW Title Reign Ever! Centerfold: Undertaker. Plus: The Giant, Vader, Guerreros, Ken Shamrock.

Holiday 1998 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Eighth Annual Special.

January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed? Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.

February 1999: The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling! Centerfold: The Nitro Girls.

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April 1999: The Crock! The Title Change That Screwed The World! Centerfold: Chris Jericho. Plus: Bill Goldberg, Tommy Dreamer, Booker T, more Unofficial/Officials.

May 1999: Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV? Centerfold: Konnan. Plus: Mark Henry, Sting-Nash, Bill Alfonso, Brian Hildebrand.

June 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): The 1999 *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mankind, Flair & Turner, VMac, Steiners, New Japan-UFO.

July 1999: Warning! This Team Will Self-Destruct In 15 Seconds! Centerfold: X-Pac. Plus: New Jack-Dudleys, Jesse James, Venis & Godfather, Sting-Bischoff-Flair.

August 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards '99: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously. Plus: Super 8, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jerry Lawler, tag team wrestling.

September 1999: Why Stone-Cold Might Get Out While He's Still On Top! Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Kidman & Misterio, The Rock, Bret Hart, Taz-Sabu.

October 1999: Why The World Must Fear Scott Steiner, By Buff Bagwell. Centerfold: Mankind. Plus: Kane & X-Pac, The Godfather, Perry Saturn, 20th anniversary readers' poll.

November 1999: The Women Of The WWF: There's More To Their Power Than Their Looks. Centerfold: Owen Hart. Plus: Rey Misterio Jr., Roddy Piper, Steiners, Steve Austin.

December 1999: Steve Austin: "CEO This! I'm The Damn Champ!" Centerfold: Rey Misterio Jr. Plus: Randy Savage, Jimmy Hart, WCW youth, Billy Gunn.

Holiday 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Ninth Annual Special.

January 2000: The Millennium Man Mouths Off! An Unforgettable Hour With Chris Jericho! Centerfold: Taz. Plus: Chris Benoit, Sid-Goldberg, Triple-H.

February 2000: The Master Manipulator! How Stone-Cold Controls The WWF. Centerfold: Kane. Plus: Paul Heyman, Hogan-Bret-Sting-Luger.

March 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): 1999—The Year In Wrestling. 1999 In Review, Achievement '99 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 2000.

April 2000: The Rock vs. Stone-Cold: Let's Settle It At WrestleMania. Centerfold: Chris Benoit. Plus: DDP, Goldberg-Sid, more Unofficial/Officials.

May 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): The Y2K *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mitsuharu Misawa, Triple-H, Bret Hart, Hollys, Chyna & Aysa, ECW returnees.

June 2000: Just Wondering, Steph ... Is Triple-H Worth Your Billion-Dollar Inheritance? Centerfold: The Rock. Plus: Heyman-Van Dam, Vader, NWO.

July 2000: Call It A Wrap, Jack! You've Done Your Share ... Go Home! Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Dusty Rhodes, Disco Inferno, DDP, Dudleys-Hardys.

August 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards 2000: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously. Plus: Rob Van Dam, greatest supercards, Super 8.

September 2000: Wrestle McMania! Why The Peace Can't Last. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Eric Bischoff, Dudleys, Raven.

October 2000: Scott Steiner: The Superstar The WWF Let Slip Away: Centerfold: Rikishi. Plus: Shawn Michaels, Austin-Rock, Rhino-RVD.

November 2000: The Rock vs. Triple-H. Our Special 50-Category Analysis. Pinups: Extreme wrestling. Plus: Nash-Steiner-Hall, Hardcore Holly, wrestling too extreme?

December 2000: Head Hog! Does Undertaker Have Enough Gas In His Tank To Rumble To The Top? Centerfold: Dallas Page. Plus: Kurt Angle, Rikishi, Vampiro-Sting, Japan.

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Peace, Love, & Misunderstanding:

If You Never Saw This Man In ECW You Don't Know How AWESOME He Really Is!

When Mike Awesome first entered WCW, he was thrust right into a feud with Scott Steiner. Awesome more than held his own with "Big Poppa Pump" and proved his success in ECW was no fluke.

By Dan Murphy

OKAY, GRAPPLING GURUS, time for your three-question S.A.T. (that's Standardized Awesome Testing).

Question 1: Which song most adequately depicts Mike Awesome?

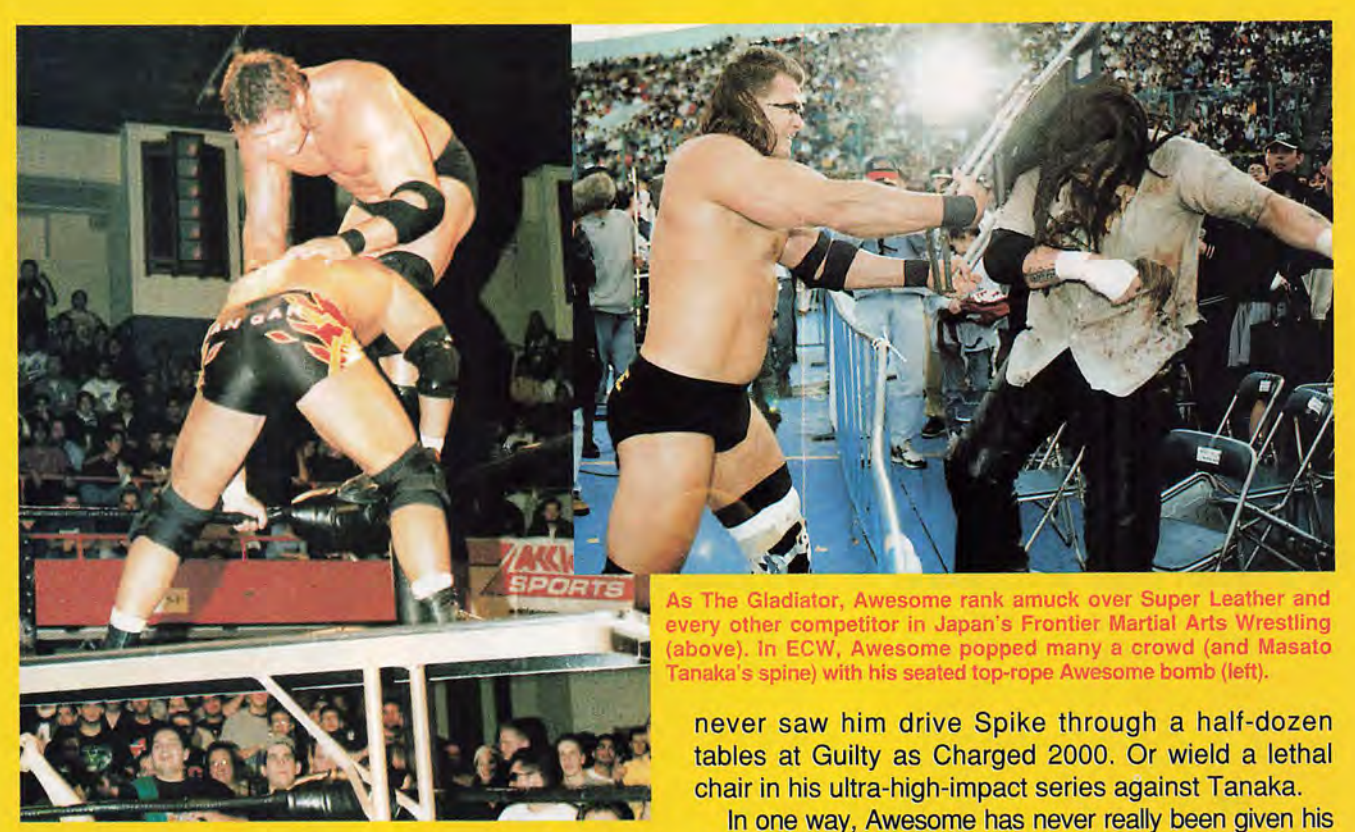
1) "Come On, Get Happy" by The Partridge Family
2) "Fat Bottom Girls" by Queen
3) "War Machine" by Kiss

Question 2: The greatest moment in Awesome's professional career was:

1) Slamming the Insane Clown Posse's Shaggy 2 Dope on the roof of the Partridge Family bus on *Nitro*
2) Getting to meet childhood idol Gary Coleman
3) Nearly crushing Masato Tanaka's skull and spine en route to winning his second ECW World title

Question 3: Awesome's nickname of choice is:

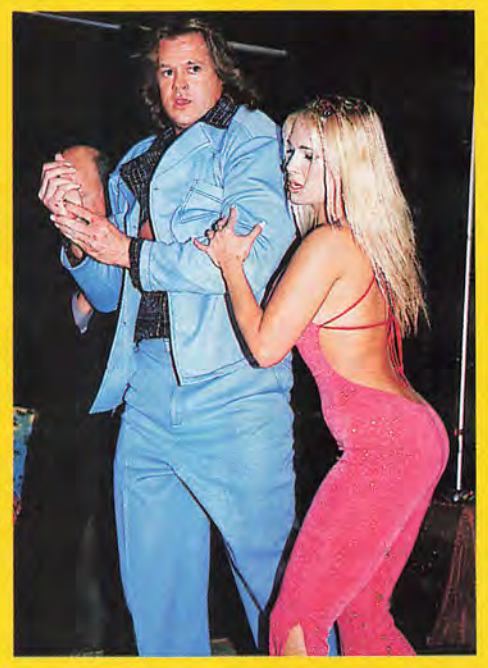
1) "That '70s Guy"
2) "The Fat Chick Thrilla"
3) "The Gladiator"



As The Gladiator, Awesome rank amuck over Super Leather and every other competitor in Japan's Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling (above). In ECW, Awesome popped many a crowd (and Masato Tanaka's spine) with his seated top-rope Awesome bomb (left).

If you answered anything other than "three" to any of these questions, you just don't know Mike Awesome. Don't feel bad. It's not entirely your fault. The fact is, if your only exposure to Mike Awesome has come since he debuted in WCW, you've never seen the real deal.

If all you've seen of Awesome are his losing efforts against Lance Storm, the Lava Lamp Lounge, and his penchant for Helga, Heidi, and their husky friends, maybe you should try to get some videotapes of his ECW matches against Tanaka and Spike Dudley. You think Awesome is all about comic relief? Then you never saw him drive Spike through a half-dozen tables at Guilty as Charged 2000. Or wield a lethal chair in his ultra-high-impact series against Tanaka.



When Awesome opened a gash in his hand during an episode of the Lava Lamp Lounge, Pamela Paulshock, Gene Okerlund, and other WCW employees made a big fuss about the injury, but Awesome didn't. He barely paid the wound any attention.

In one way, Awesome has never really been given his chance to shine in WCW. In ECW, Awesome was encouraged to wrestle in the style he perfected in his days as The Gladiator in Japan's FMW. He showed up out of nowhere at 1999's Anarchy Rulz and managed to insert himself into the main event originally scheduled to be only Tazz vs. Tanaka and came out with the title. As champion, Awesome lived by his own laws and destroyed everyone who stepped into the ring against him.

What happened? Did Awesome become Mike Awesome-lite the day he jumped to WCW?

Well, not really. First of all, there aren't a lot of masochists like Tanaka and Spike Dudley in WCW. That's a given. Also, the travel schedule is much more grueling in WCW. No one can take the kind of beating Awesome routinely dishes out three or four times a week, especially when there's no title on the line. Why wrestle Awesome on his terms when it's not necessarily going to move you up in the rankings?

On the other hand, we are seeing a more well-rounded Awesome in WCW. This Mike Awesome can cut a promo when the need arises. He's willing to go along with whatever gimmicks the powers-that-be deem necessary. And Awesome has learned to tone down his style and adjust his pace, two crucial elements to his long-term success in the Big Two. But we've seen Awesome at his most destructive, and we know he's holding back.

"There's not much I like about Mike Awesome, but wrestling him was like being in a car wreck," Spike Dudley said recently. "You'd be sore in places you didn't even know you had, not for a few hours or a day or two, but for three or four weeks. Every move Awesome executes in the ring is designed not to stun someone or take

"Watching the polyester-clad swinger shake his moneymaker like a Disco Inferno understudy—it makes it hard to believe this is the same guy who ran roughshod over the most hardcore promotion in the country for more than half a year."

them down, but to incapacitate them. I really believe Awesome enjoys hurting people. If he goes back to that style again, Awesome would embarrass those WCW *tough guys* like Goldberg and Scott Steiner."

The new Mike Awesome is more of a team player. If WCW wants to promote him as "That '70s Guy," that will do—for now. Awesome knows he still has some dues to pay in the U.S. When Awesome first arrived in WCW, he managed to pin Hulk Hogan in one of his first matches. Still, WCW has yet to see the best of the man who many considered to be the most dominant ECW World champion ever.

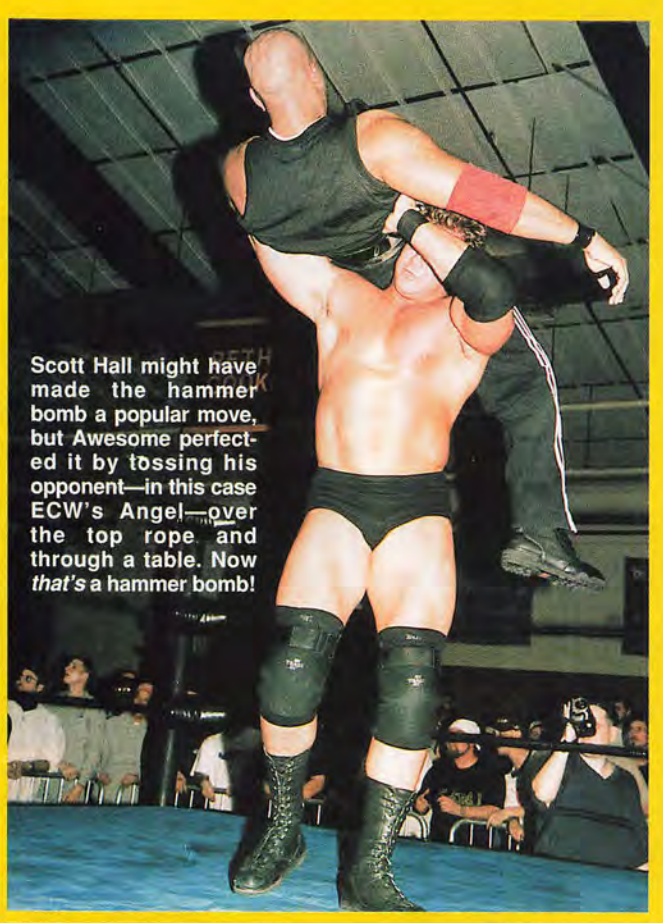
Steiner's suplexes, Steinerlines, and Steiner recliner are all brutal, but they seem tame compared to Awesome's seated top-rope Awesome bomb. And you want to talk chair shots? Awesome isn't the type to halfheartedly smack a chair into an opponent's shoulders. Awesome swings for the fences and aims for the noggin. And if you try to go to the outside for a breather, he has no qualms about launching his body like a 6'6", 285-pound Scud missile over the ropes and driving his shoulder into your sternum. If it breaks, all the better.

But watching the polyester-clad swinger shake his moneymaker like a Disco Inferno understudy—it makes it hard to believe this is the same guy who ran roughshod over the most hardcore promotion in the country for more than half a year. The time will come when Awesome forces people to take him seriously again. In fact, Awesome hints that those days may be coming sooner than people think.

"Suffice to say that Mike Awesome knows more about everyone else in WCW than everyone else in WCW knows about Mike Awesome," Awesome said. "I've been in the business for about 11 years, and I've spilled blood with some of the most dangerous men to ever wrestle. Don't think for a second I've forgotten anything that I learned from my days in FMW and ECW. But the fact of the matter is, I'm having a little bit of fun right now, hanging loose and getting happy in WCW. But when I'm not having fun anymore ..."

Awesome paused, removed his retro shades, and mussed his hair from its blow-dried splendor. "When I'm not having fun anymore," he continued, "no one in WCW will be having much fun, either."

And if anyone in WCW still feels the urge to laugh at "That '70s Guy," maybe he should make a quick phone call to Tanaka or Spike. Mike Awesome is no laughing matter. □



Scott Hall might have made the hammer bomb a popular move, but Awesome perfected it by tossing his opponent—in this case ECW's Angel—over the top rope and through a table. Now *that's* a hammer bomb!

Not only is Kimberly an extremely attractive lady, she also has a head for the wrestling business. Before leaving WCW, she made a point to hire Awesome as a bodyguard. We're sure he had no problem guarding her body.

press conference...

Before admitting to running over "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, Rikishi was in a feud with Kane that was going absolutely nowhere. Did Rikishi really hit Austin for The Rock? Or was it because he wanted to main-event himself?

RIKISHI

RIKISHI IS THE culprit. The suspense continued for 10 months, with everyone wondering, ***Who ran over "Stone-Cold"?*** *No one guessed it was the fun-loving Rikishi, the man who danced and entertained WWF fans during Steve Austin's absence. No one suspected Rikishi because he appeared to have no motive. He returned to the WWF only a few weeks prior to Survivor Series '99.*

When Commissioner Mick Foley solved the mystery and fingered Rikishi, the big man confessed to the crime, almost with pride. In an articulate and reasoned manner, Rikishi enumerated the injustices committed against "his people" in the WWF. He mentioned Peter Maivia, The Samoans, Jimmy Snuka, and The Tonga Kid in particular. As he made his case, The Rock simply stood across the ring from him and stared at him in silent disbelief.

Rikishi accused the WWF of pushing the "great white hope"—whether it was Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino, Bob Backlund, Hulk Hogan, or Steve Austin—at the expense of the "island boys."

No matter how strong his case or eloquent his plea, Rikishi remains guilty of a hideous crime. He showed no remorse. In fact, he depicted the hit-and-run as a selfless act that helped his friend The Rock take over Austin's spot as the most popular and visible star in the company. Fortunately for him, "Stone-Cold" opted not to press criminal charges against him.

He survived his match against Steve Austin at No Mercy (it ended in a no-contest) and, as the Survivor Series neared, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED *thought it was an appropriate time to interview the former Intercontinental champ. Managing Editor Brandi Mankiewicz, Senior Writer Harry Burkett, and Contributing Writer Liz Hunter grilled Rikishi after a recent* ***Raw.***

BRANDI MANKIEWICZ: First off, Rikishi, I want to congratulate you for the courage and integrity you've displayed throughout this so-called hit-and-run controversy. A lot of people would have never confessed to running over Steve Austin, but here you are, speaking openly about the incident with pride. You must be a big-hearted man.

LIZ HUNTER: Stop the pandering, Brandi. This man should be behind bars. He's guilty of attempted vehicular homicide. Imagine the pain and agony Steve Austin has experienced since last year's Survivor Series. The spinal surgery. The recovery. The uncertainty of his comeback. Rikishi, you're responsible for all that, and you should be ashamed of yourself.

> **"If Austin had been around the last year, do you think Rock would have become a huge star? A star capable of million-dollar movie deals and guest hosting *Saturday Night Live*?"**

RIKISHI: No! You should be ashamed of yourself! The whole wrestling establishment should be ashamed of itself! The WWF should be ashamed of itself! What I did to Steve Austin was mild compared to what my people have gone through over the past 30 years in this business. Liz Hunter, you always demand equal rights. You think women should have as many opportunities as men. Where have you been in defense of my people? I haven't seen you defend Afa, Sika, Samu, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, or The Tonga Kid. You don't speak up on our behalf. The WWF is always talking about free speech. Me running over Steve Austin was my free speech. That was me telling the whole world that my people won't be screwed over again! What about you *(nods toward Burkett),* are you going to talk, or are you going to let these women do all the talking for you?

HARRY BURKETT: It seems to me that you're doing all the talking. But you're entitled to that because you've been so quiet up until now. You talk about your people being repressed, the "island boys" as you call them. You're talking about all of the great wrestlers who have come from Samoa, Tonga, and the Fiji Islands. Do these wrestlers you cite—Afa, Sika, Samu, Snuka, and the rest—actually support your comments?

RIKISHI: Absolutely. But you must understand my people. My people are noble. They are stoic. It is not their way to complain. They know how they've been repressed over the years. If they will not speak for themselves, I will speak for them and do it proudly.

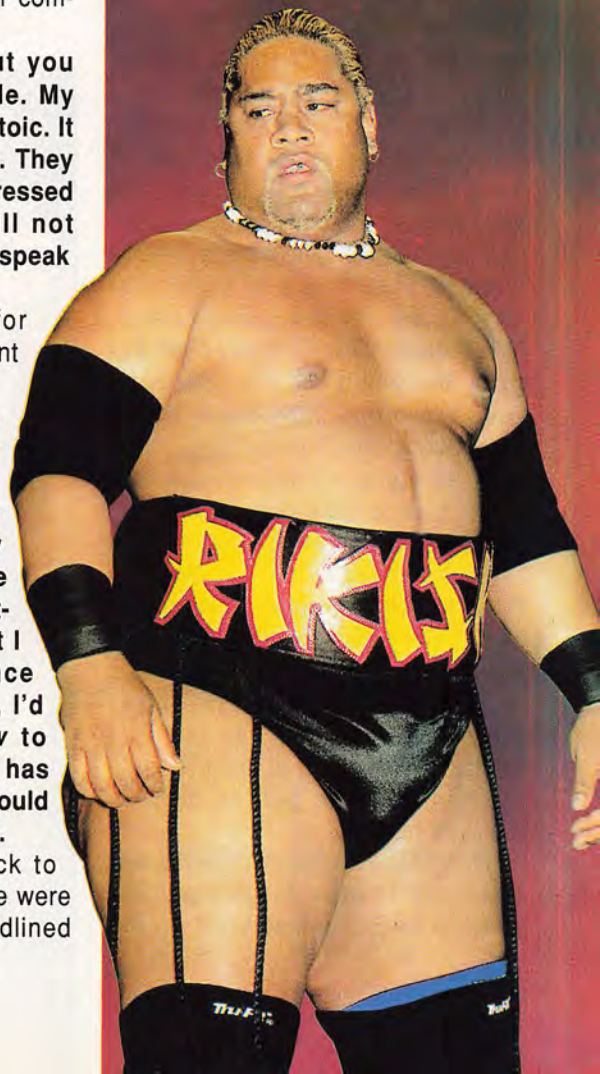
HUNTER: You'll speak for them by running over innocent people in parking lots?

MANKIEWICZ: I'd be careful of where you park your car, Liz.

RIKISHI: I speak in whatever way I'll be heard. By running over Austin, I got five minutes on *Raw,* uninterrupted, to explain why I did what I did. What if I went to Vince McMahon and said, "Vince, I'd like five minutes on *Raw* to explain how your company has screwed my people over." Would I have got that? Not a chance.

BURKETT: Let's get back to your assertion that your people were repressed. Peter Maivia headlined

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



At WrestleMania XIII, Rikishi, as the red-clad Sultan, took it to a young Rocky Maivia. Apparently, Rikishi wasn't too worried about how his fellow islanders fared back then.

Madison Square Garden cards against both Superstar Graham and Bob Backlund for the World title. Afa and Sika not only held the World tag team title several times, but each of them received shots against Backlund. So did Jimmy Snuka. How can you say these men were repressed? They were world-class athletes and were treated as such.

RIKISHI: That's where you're wrong. Yes, you are right that they were world-class athletes. Their talent could never be denied. But when it came to a push from the office, they never got it. I'm talking about promoting these men as stars, as champions. The WWF had to give them some bananas and coconuts and market them as savages on TV. But The Rock broke that mold. I broke that mold. We were not satisfied with being treated like stereotypes.

BURKETT: Doesn't that defeat your own argument? The fact that you and The Rock broke the mold proves there were genuine opportunities in the WWF.

RIKISHI: You don't understand. Rock had to stay in the big white shadow of Steve Austin. If Austin had been around the last year, do you think Rock would have become a huge star? A star capable of million-dollar movie deals and guest hosting *Saturday Night Live?* Not a chance. That's why I took the matter into my own hands. I gave Rock the chance that McMahon wouldn't have given him. I gave Rock the chance that Austin wouldn't have given him. I am not ashamed of what I did! I'd do it all over again!

MANKIEWICZ: Does it hurt you that The Rock doesn't appreciate your sacrifice? If it weren't for you, The Rock probably wouldn't have become WWF champion this year.

HUNTER: If it weren't for Rikishi, The Rock would be WWF champion right now. Rikishi's interference cost Rock the title at No Mercy. You should be ashamed of that, too.

RIKISHI: I am not ashamed, but I am sorry. To answer your question, Brandi, The Rock did hurt my feelings. I'm a very sensitive person. And The Rock, you see, is like most of our people. He is very proud. He doesn't want to admit that he had any help winning the WWF title. He wants to think he won that title all on his own. But if it wasn't for me running over Austin in that parking lot, he would have never had a chance. I know it. Brandi, you know it. Everybody in this room knows it, whether they want to admit it or not! I could help him beat Kurt Angle for the title if he would only let me help.

HUNTER: I don't think The Rock wants what you call help. Your help has been nothing but disastrous for him. But you have a bigger problem than your relationship with The Rock. You have a "Texas Rattle-

snake" waiting to sink his fangs into you again. Face it, Rikishi, you barely got out of No Mercy alive. Austin would've run you over with his truck if the police hadn't intervened. Then you had the nerve to press charges against Austin, although he refused to press charges against you. And you actually ran him over with the car!

RIKISHI: And this is the WWF's "great white hope"? Well, that's just fine. I just used the system against Austin, just like the WWF has been using the system against my people for years. And I want Austin to know this. I'm ready to play hardball. If he wants to run over somebody with a truck, that's fine. But I'm a dangerous individual, and I'm warning Austin here and now: From now on, I won't be responsible for my actions. I'm not going to worry about The Rock's feelings or the fans' feelings or no one else's feelings. Austin can look forward to more operations and more chances to adapt to life as a cripple.

Rikishi drops the banzai splash on Test. If he has to, Rikishi says he'll drop The Rock with the maneuver. No matter the cost, Rikishi plans on getting his message out to the masses.

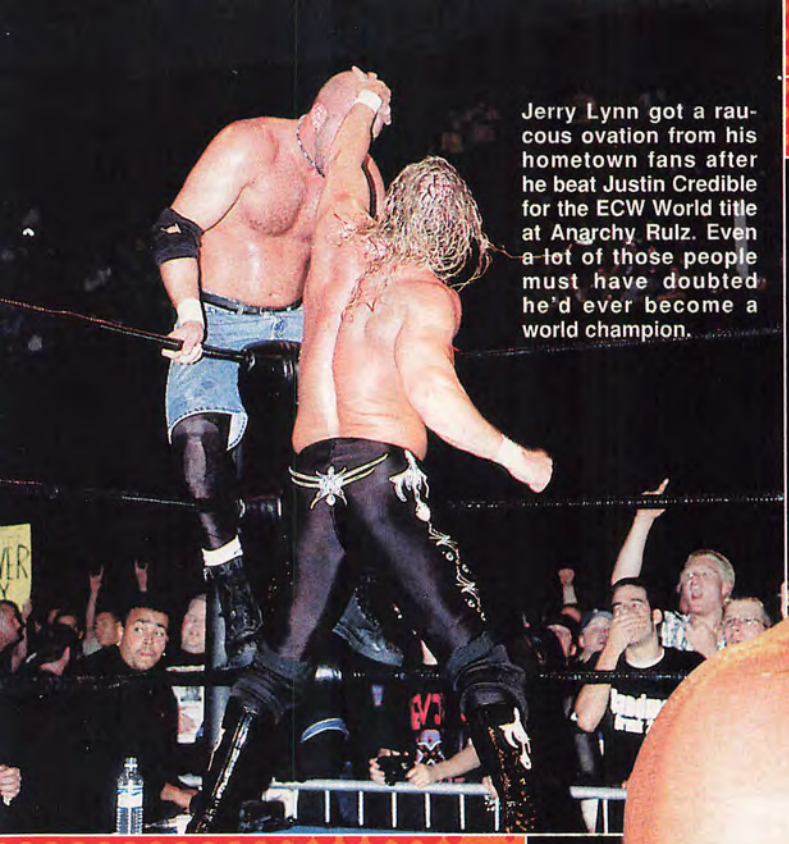
BURKETT: Speaking of feelings, Too Cool was very upset by your actions. Don't you think you've betrayed them? They really believed in you.

RIKISHI: I won't kid you. Me, Brian, and Scotty were friends. But this thing is bigger than friendship. It's more important than staying friends with Too Cool. I've already backed this ass up on Brian and Scotty—you saw it on *Smackdown* in that handicap match we had. I'll do it again if they get in my face again. In fact, I may have to hurt those guys just to prove how serious I am.

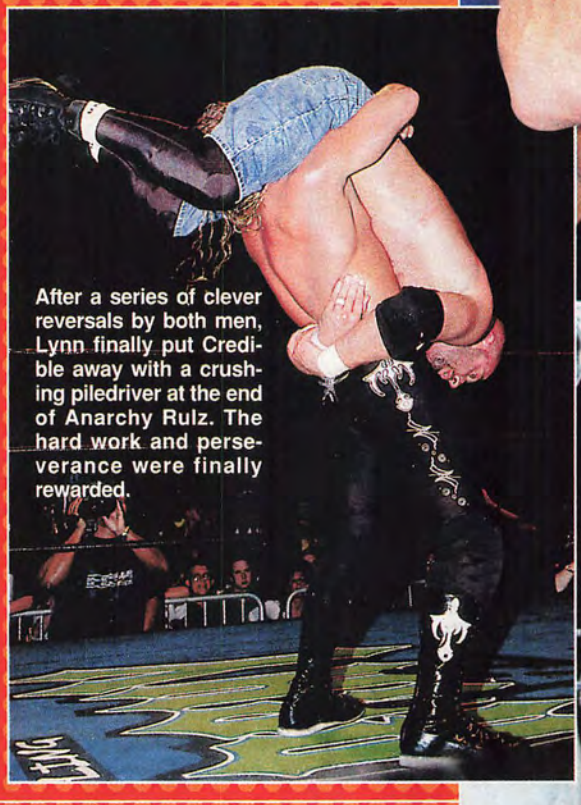
HUNTER: Does that go for The Rock, too?

RIKISHI: It does. I'll try to be there for The Rock. I forgive him for giving me a Rock bottom. I forgive him for all those hateful things he said. He's my family. He's my blood. But if he pushes me too far, I might have to take care of the situation. I hope that doesn't happen. In the meantime, I'm going to watch The Rock's back. Whenever he turns around, I'll be there. □

There's no doubt Rikishi is a strong wrestler who is deserving of World title shots. His matches with Kane (opposite page, left and below) proved that much. He didn't need to run down Austin with a car to get attention.



Jerry Lynn got a raucous ovation from his hometown fans after he beat Justin Credible for the ECW World title at Anarchy Rulz. Even a lot of those people must have doubted he'd ever become a world champion.



After a series of clever reversals by both men, Lynn finally put Credible away with a crushing piledriver at the end of Anarchy Rulz. The hard work and perseverance were finally rewarded.

JERRY LYNN: "I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER DOUBTED ME!"

By Frank Krewda

IF YOU'RE A Jerry Lynn fan, it's time for you to drop the charade. Stop acting like you've always been his number-one fan. He doesn't want you gushing over him now that he has become the ECW World heavyweight champion.

It's not that Lynn minds wrestling hard for the ECW crowd. He loves it, and he loves his fans for the most part. It's the hypocrites Lynn can do without. Those who walked out on his matches when he wrestled in WCW as Mr. J.L. Those who wondered what he was doing in the same ring as Rob Van Dam. Those who gave him no chance of beating Justin Credible for the strap, but now cheer him.

And you can't blame Jerry Lynn for feeling this way. Chances are you booed him as Mr. J.L. and left your seat to buy a Sabu T-shirt whenever Lynn entered the ring. And while Rob Van Dam was nursing the most celebrated broken ankle in ECW history, you most likely forgot Lynn was out with a similar injury.

"I'm used to being overlooked," Lynn told *PWI* recently. "But some people, not just the fans, act like they've been in my corner throughout my career. And that's not really the case. Nobody gave me a chance against Van Dam and nobody believed I could beat Justin Credible. I'm the only one who never doubted me!"

No one, not even anyone affiliated with this magazine, can argue the point. Ever since he emerged from the Minnesota indy scene in the late-'80s, Lynn was always considered a nice wrestler who could perform well in the air or on the mat. But he was never pegged as a future superstar. He simply lacked the size and color that a major wrestling promotion could get behind.

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So he toiled in Minnesota and in Texas' now-defunct GWF in relative anonymity, under a mask in WCW, in Japan, and without much fanfare in ECW. That was until Paul Heyman put him in the ring with the company's biggest star: Van Dam.

It was a bold move that had many pundits scratching their heads

For a long time, it looked like Lynn was going to be stuck using that cradle piledriver on ECW mid-carders such as Simon Diamond (left). An explosive rivalry with Rob Van Dam (above) did so much for his career.

and wondering if the unassuming, underappreciated, and understated Lynn had the goods to hang with the federation's premier athlete.

And this was even *after* Lynn answered skeptics with a series of five-star matches against Van Dam. As valiantly as he fought, he couldn't beat RVD. And Lynn heard the whispers.

"I turned in some of the greatest matches—the greatest matches—this company has ever seen, but I still wasn't a top guy, whatever that means," Lynn complained. "And not a whole lot of people took me real seriously. Sure, I gave him a few scares. They called me 'The New F'n Show' and all that, but how many people really believed I could beat him? Not many, but I did."

Lynn eventually defeated Van Dam at Hardcore Heaven 2000, but even then, most people credited the law of averages (and a turncoat named Scotty Anton) rather than Lynn with the victory.

"Hell, he only wrestled Van Dam 10 times," said one ECW wrestler who requested anonymity. "If you wrestle that many times, even the best wrestler is going to lose once or twice."

In other words, the experts—including the editors of this magazine—still weren't convinced that Lynn was an ECW main-eventer—even though he defeated the headline wrestler in a major PPV match.

Of course, Lynn isn't the only smallish wrestler whose exploits have been overlooked in the ring, and like those before him, the lack of respect afforded Lynn can be attributed directly to the way he was promoted.

Sure, his career was mishandled in WCW, but even after he arrived in ECW, Paul Heyman presented Lynn as the best wrestler we'd never seen. He was pushed as the wrestler everyone forgets. He was the ultimate underdog, not the same hapless anti-hero Mikey Whipwreck has become, but someone you'd recognize for not being a superstar.

Could it be that Heyman did such a great job forging this reputation that wrestling observers have been conditioned to believe that if Lynn beats an RVD it must be by fluke, not by virtue of his wrestling ability?

"No way," Heyman fired back. "Jerry Lynn is a damn good wrestler. He found a way to beat Van Dam and he deserves as much credit as he can get for that."

Unfortunately for Lynn and Heyman, that credit wasn't forthcoming. At least not until he defeated Justin Credible at Anarchy Rulz on October 1 to win his first world title. But even in his crowning glory,

Despite all the progress he had made during his ECW career, Lynn was still considered an underdog by many as his showdown with Credible at Anarchy Rulz approached.

Lynn continues to hear the whispers of his critics.

"He's just a transitional champ."

"Credible will get the belt back the next time they wrestle."

"Wait until he wrestles Van Dam again now that it will really mean something."

Or is it just Lynn's paranoia speaking? There's only one way for Jerry Lynn to disprove the validity of those questions: to keep going out and winning.

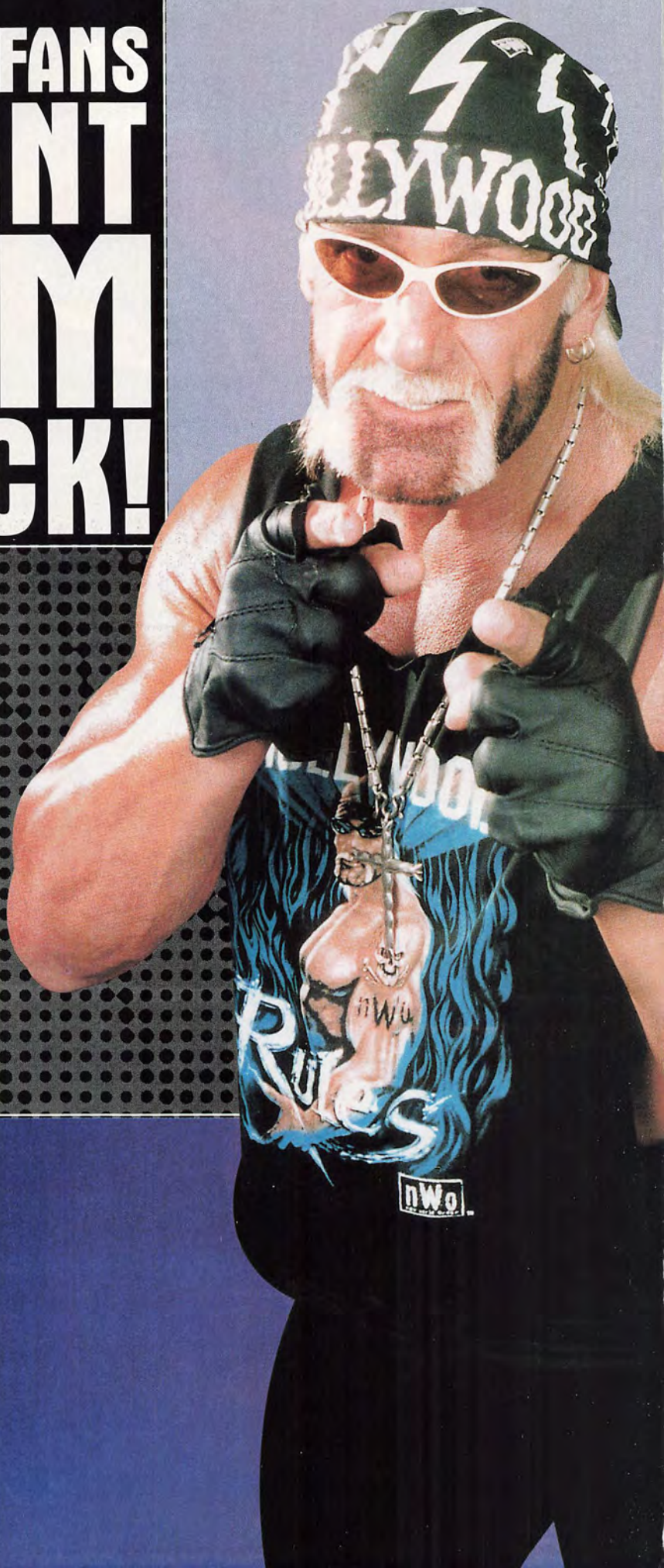
"I hear the cheers. I give high-fives and shake hands. And that's cool. I know it takes a lot to make people believe in you. I also know deep-down that a lot of people are just waiting for me to go back to being an afterthought. But I believe in my skills. And I believe that I can be a superstar in ECW or anywhere else for that matter."

Still, one question remains: For all his wonderful skills, will there ever come a time when Jerry Lynn *doesn't* have to prove himself to someone? □

Those who saw the great matches Lynn had with The Lightning Kid (X-Pac) in the early-1990s knew both had talent to spare. It just took the undersized Lynn a bit longer to become a star on a national level.

HULK HOGAN

WWF FANS WANT HIM BACK!



By Harry Burkett

RIKISHI SHOCKED FANS around the world when he admitted running over Steve Austin. The chorus of boos and shrieks of disappointment from the 17,000 or so fans in attendance at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim will become part of wrestling lore. But there was another reaction, perhaps not as shocking, but every bit as noteworthy that evening.

Rikishi accused the WWF of always promoting "the great white hope." He listed a few of the champions who had fronted the WWF during its 37-year history: Buddy Rogers ... Bruno Sammartino ... Bob Backlund ... Hulk Hogan ...

Hulk Hogan. A spontaneous whoop of cheers echoed throughout the arena. The mention of Rogers, Sammartino, and Backlund didn't elicit that reaction. It was Rikishi's utterance of the name "Hulk Hogan" that got the pop. The only person Rikishi mentioned who got a bigger pop was, of course, Steve Austin, the victim of the crime.

"The positive reaction for Hogan, even in a casual reference, is as noteworthy as the stunning news of Rikishi's guilt. Viewers across America heard it. Steve Austin heard it. The Rock heard it. Most importantly, both Vince McMahon and Hulk Hogan heard it."

The positive reaction for Hogan, even in a casual reference, is as noteworthy as the stunning news of Rikishi's guilt. Viewers across America heard it. Steve Austin heard it. The Rock heard it.

Most importantly, both Vince McMahon and Hulk Hogan heard it. This spontaneous display of affection for Hogan comes at a time when the "Hulkster" is sitting in his Florida mansion with nothing to do. He has been unofficially laid off by Vince Russo while still collecting a paycheck from WCW. The longer Hogan sits out, the more his name diminishes in market value. Would WWF fans really welcome him back?

"I think this notion of 'Hogan fatigue' is vastly overrated," said WCW analyst Donald Wayne. "Everyone on the Internet says how they're sick and tired of Hogan, how Hogan holds down younger wrestlers, and how fans hate him. Well, I haven't seen a great renaissance in WCW since his absence. I think criticizing Hogan became fashionable and he was used as a scapegoat for WCW's bigger problems. Hogan's recent performance in WCW frustrated me because I know he's capable of so much more. Perhaps a jump to the WWF is exactly what Hogan

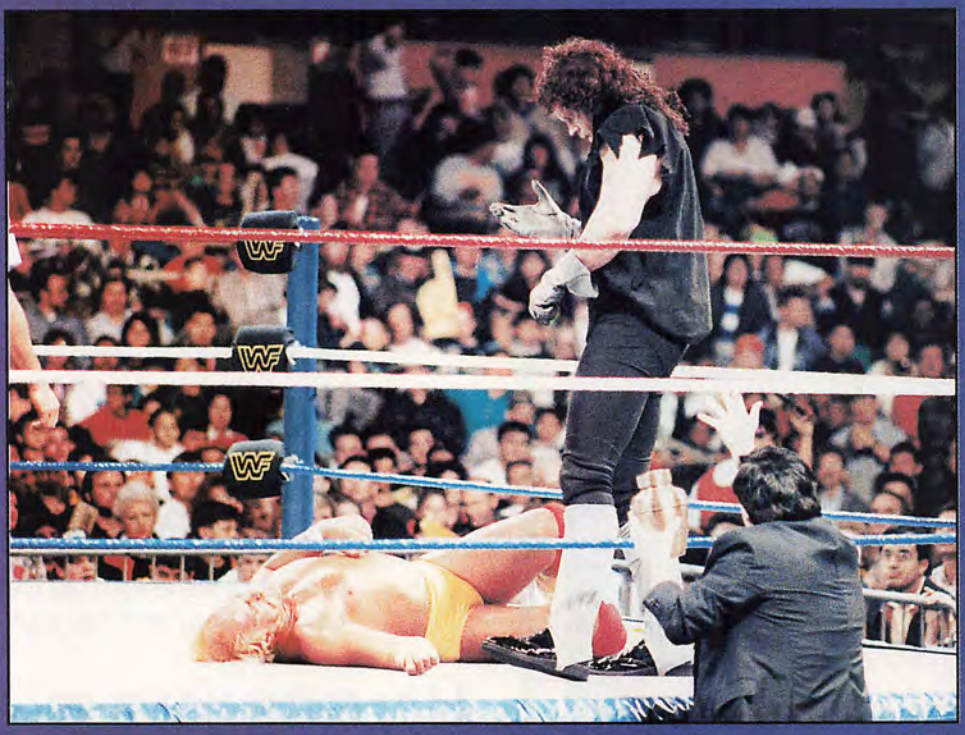
HOW WOULD HOGAN FARE?

Times have changed in the WWF since the heyday of "Hulkamania." Hulk Hogan vanquished Roddy Piper, King Kong Bundy, Andre the Giant, and countless others during his glorious WWF title reigns. But that was yesterday. How would he fare against The Rock, Steve Austin, Triple-H, The Undertaker, Kane, Chris Benoit, and Kurt Angle?

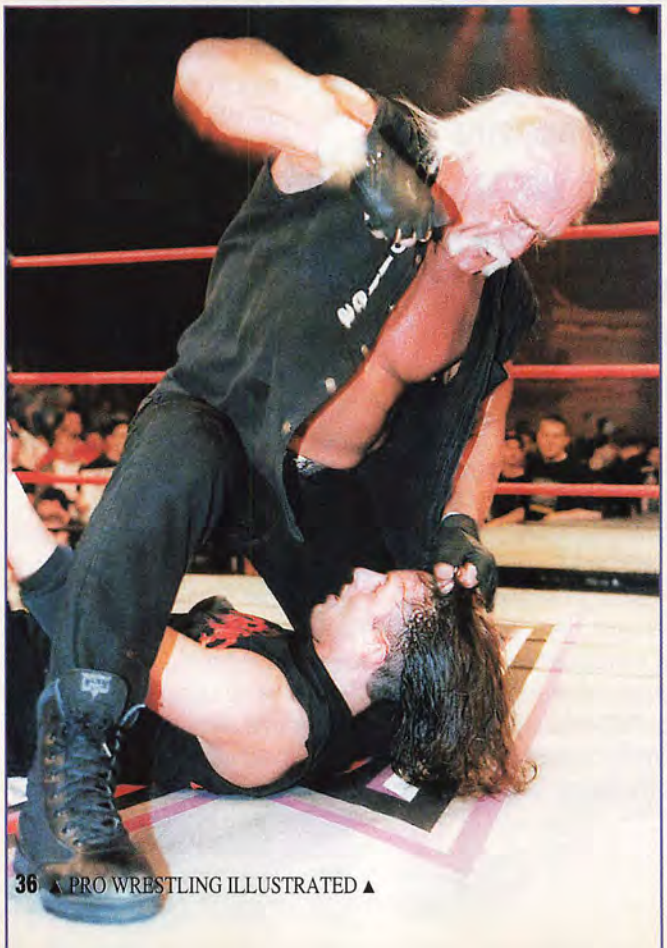
Since his last stint in the WWF, Hogan has accumulated a few across-the-board weaknesses: a bum knee, various other joint injuries, reduced speed, poorer cardiovascular fitness, and the overall age factor. On the other hand, Hogan would have a few across-the-board strengths in the WWF: experience, aggressiveness, and renewed enthusiasm.

Here's our take on Hogan vs. the WWF's best.

Hogan vs. The Rock: At 6'8", Hogan would tower over the WWF's most popular wrestler. At 6'4", The Rock is accustomed to possessing the height advantage and, with Rock's relative lack of experience, that could be unnerving in itself. Hogan has the slight advantage in power. Hogan was criticized for his lack of technical ability as WWF champ. The Rock suffers from the same rap. The difference is that Hogan has improved in this area. Rock has not.



Is another 'Taker-Hogan feud in the works?



Before being exiled from WCW by Vince Russo, Hulk Hogan proved that he can still run with younger wrestlers by thoroughly dominating Billy Kidman in their feud. Hogan would have no problem keeping up with most of the WWF's roster.

needs—and exactly what the WWF needs."

Hogan might, in fact, return to WCW soon. But can he revive interest in the red and yellow persona again? Does he have a chance of rekindling his career through his Hollywood character? The answer is "no" to both questions. He hasn't done anything in WCW that everyone hasn't seen before. What Hogan needs is a fresh start with a fresh batch of opponents.

Hogan must return to a place where he's appreciated. The reaction to Rikishi's mere mention of Hogan's name is the first tangible proof: WWF fans *do* want Hulk Hogan back!

Why not? The WWF was the site of Hogan's greatest triumphs, and it's been nearly eight years since he has appeared at a WWF event. Hogan has just as much charisma as The Rock, Steve Austin, Triple-H, or Kurt Angle. Besides, Hogan has kept himself in remarkable shape. Remember how well Vince McMahon, someone eight

Hogan vs. Steve Austin: "Stone-Cold" enters the ring like a whirlwind, throwing rights and lefts and stomping his opponent at the first opportunity. Unlike most WWF superstars who resist slowing down the action, Hogan wouldn't hesitate to roll out of the ring. Austin would make the mistake of following Hogan, only to be met with a steel chair or a shove into the ringpost. Hogan wouldn't be intimidated by Austin's bluster. Imagine this scenario: Hogan takes a stunner, but instead of going down, he shakes off the effects, his eyes bulge, and Austin knows fear for the first time.

Hogan vs. Triple-H: Hogan and Triple-H are very similar wrestlers, but Triple-H has youth on his side. He's faster and is in better cardiovascular condition. Hogan could counter that by keeping Triple-H in the ring and avoiding falls-count-anywhere and "Ironman" matches. A strap match would work in Hogan's favor. The most aggressive wrestler would win. Would Hogan stoop to hitting Triple-H with a sledgehammer? Probably not. But Helmsley wouldn't hesitate to hit Hogan with one.

Hogan vs. The Undertaker: This might be the most anticipated rematch in WWF history. The Undertaker halted Hogan's momentum by upsetting the "Hulkster" for the title at Survivor Series '91. The Undertaker was just a newcomer when he caused Hogan so much trouble nine years ago, and Undertaker's accumulation of experience would make him even more dangerous today. But 'Taker isn't as mobile as he used to be, which would work to Hogan's advantage.

Hogan vs. Kane: Hogan has plenty of experience against massive, lumbering opponents. Remember how he handled Big John Studd, King Kong Bundy, and The Giant (The Big Show)? Hogan bounces off the ropes to gain momentum and tries to establish dominance immediately by bodyslamming larger foes. When Hogan dominates larger opponents via raw power, what do they have left? Not much. Kane is a sheer physical specimen and hasn't exhibited much ring intelligence. That would be another Hogan strength.

Hogan vs. Chris Benoit: "The Wolverine" is faster, more aggressive, and more technically sound. If Benoit could work over Hogan's knees and cut him down to size, he could—thanks to his improved upper-chest development—actually overpower the "Hulkster." Benoit would easily win a chopping contest. But if Hogan stayed healthy throughout the match and weakened Benoit with clotheslines and bodyslams, he would stand a good chance of winning.

Hogan vs. Kurt Angle: Hogan fears young, intelligent, mat-based grapplers. He has even more reason to fear an Olympic gold medalist. Angle could capitalize on Hogan's weaknesses like no other WWF superstar. But could Angle pick up the 6'8", 275-pound Hogan for an Olympic slam? That's unlikely. And it's doubtful whether Angle has enough pro experience to defer from his standard wrestling strategy. If Hogan could stay off the mat and lure Angle into a slugfest, he would have a slight advantage.

years older than Hogan, acquitted himself against Steve Austin? Hogan would be nearly as competitive in terms of physical ability and just as competitive in terms of entertainment value as any other headliner in the WWF.

Much of the WWF's current success comes from its ability to draw casual viewers. To diehards, the Hulk Hogan and Steve Austin/Rock eras couldn't be further apart. To those casual viewers, however, it may seem as if Hogan was WWF champion just yesterday. Potential matches such as Hogan-Austin or Hogan-Rock would have tremendous mainstream appeal, and whether or not Hogan critics want to admit it, there's a good chance they'd be watching, too.

Even if Hogan wants to jump to the WWF, is it contractually possible? Finding out the details of Hogan's WCW contract is difficult since both sides try to keep that confidential. Nevertheless, sources reported to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED that Hogan's WCW contract expires during spring

Familiarity breeds contempt, which is why when Randy Savage followed Hulk Hogan to WCW, their on-again off-again feud never subsided. Former WCWers like Chris Jericho and The Radicals may have unresolved issues with Hogan.

When Hulk Hogan wrestled The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania VI, it was one of the sport's biggest matches ever. Hogan matches against The Rock, Triple-H, and Steve Austin could be just as big, if not bigger.

2001. Hogan also has ongoing litigation against WCW and Time Warner with his defamation of character lawsuit. This may bind him from jumping ship before it is settled. Assuming the WWF books the mother of all pay-per-views, a Rock-Austin World title showdown, where does the company go from there? Injecting Hogan into the mix would make for some interesting scenarios.

Imagine Hogan confronting The Rock: "Whatcha gonna do when ..." Rock holds his hand to Hogan's face: "It doesn't *matter* whatcha gonna do!"

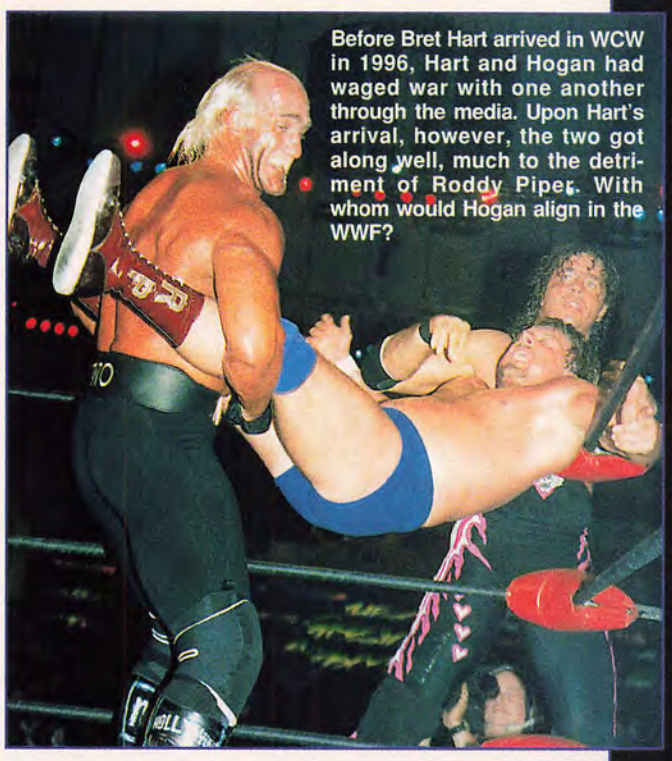
Imagine Austin confronting Hogan: "I'm gonna stomp a mudhole in your red and yellow ass and walk it dry!" Imagine Triple-H staring at Hogan, nose-to-nose.

Would we see Kurt Angle saying his prayers and taking his vitamins? Would Chris Jericho dare call him the "Huckster"? Would Brisco and Patterson be forced to abandon their "Real American" music?

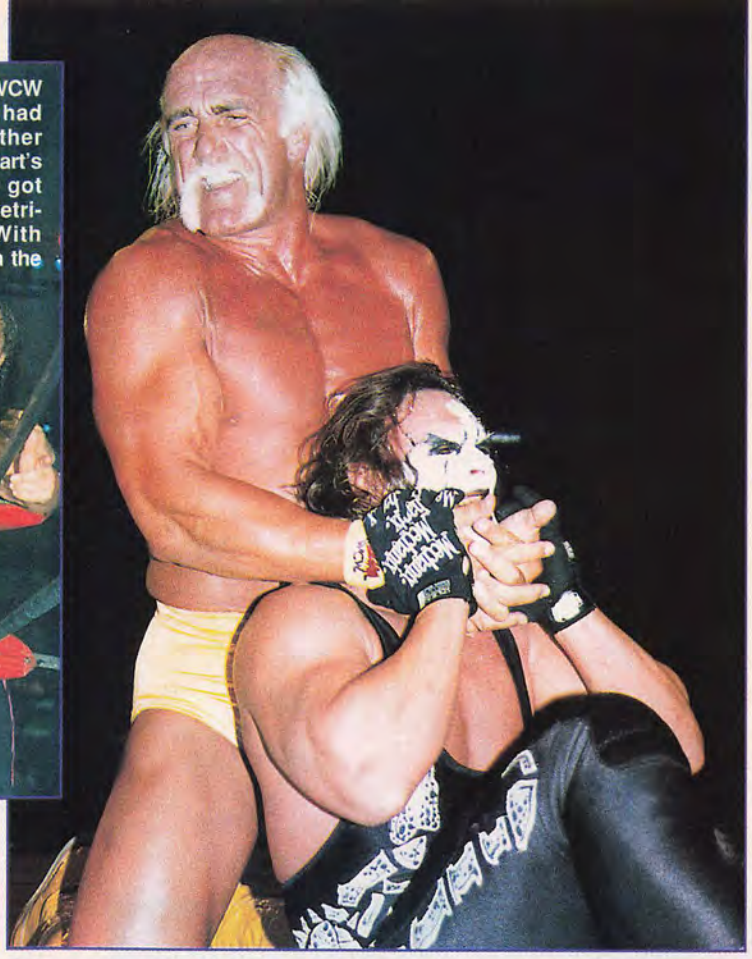
Those questions lead to more questions. Should he return to the WWF as a fan favorite or rulebreaker? WWF fans obviously like Hogan and might respond to him as a hero. It's been almost 20 years since he was a villain there. Or would the "say your prayers, take your vitamins" routine grow stale as quickly in the WWF as it did in WCW?

PWI asked WWF analyst Thomas Pilliard to gauge the federation's current climate and offer some advice for Hogan. "I agree with my colleague Donald Wayne on this one," he said. "Hulk Hogan in the WWF would be a perfect match right now. My advice would be for Hogan to enter the WWF with a harder edge, much like his Hollywood persona—maybe wear black—to fit in with the federation's 'Attitude' marketing strategy."

Fans like to cheer Hogan, but they *love* to hate Hogan.



Before Bret Hart arrived in WCW in 1996, Hart and Hogan had waged war with one another through the media. Upon Hart's arrival, however, the two got along well, much to the detriment of Roddy Piper. With whom would Hogan align in the WWF?



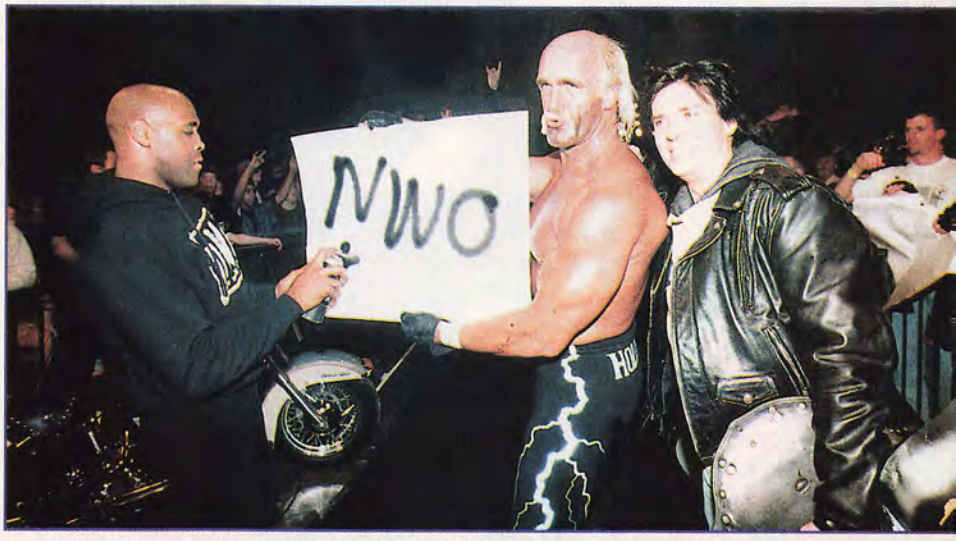
If Hogan returns to WCW, he would be smart to avoid a feud with Sting. Not because Sting is guaranteed to beat Hogan, but because fans are going to become tired of matches between the two. It's just another reason Hogan would make a good fit for the WWF.

An evil "Hulkster" is simply more entertaining. Hogan could align himself with his long-time friend Vince McMahon and focus on defeating The Rock for an unprecedented sixth WWF World title. He could go after Austin for icon status in the WWF. He could renew his feud with The Undertaker. He could ignite a new feud with Kane.

What about Hogan's persona? A black, semi-Hollywood look would be most effective. He should use his old "Voodoo Child" entrance theme by Jimi Hendrix. Playing air guitar with the WWF title belt would be a distinct possibility. Hogan should be arrogant and ruthless, two traits that aren't hard for him to convey.

Is a Hogan jump realistic? The fans obviously want it. Why wouldn't Hogan want it?

"I don't know Hulk's feelings on it. I haven't talked to him about it," commented Ed Leslie, also known as Brutus Beefcake and The Disciple. "Despite the problems, WCW is a comfortable home for Hogan. He gets a nice paycheck, gets to spend time with his family, and has a lot of influence with the higher-ups.



One thing Hogan had going his way in WCW in the mid- to late-1990s was his relationship with Eric Bischoff. Would Hogan enjoy such a tight relationship with Vince McMahon? Considering the size of both their egos, we doubt it.

"I can understand the temptation to return to the WWF, though. I'm tempted myself. There's always a temptation to go back to the place where you started. In Hulk's case, it might be fitting to end his career in the place where he became a bigger-than-life hero. He could be that big again."

What is keeping Hogan in WCW? Money has kept him there for six years, but when contract negotiations come around again—if they come around again—his deal might not be as lucrative. Without money as a lure, Hogan might follow his heart (and Vince McMahon's big paychecks) … and return home. □

ELIX SKIPPER'S "PROUD" PROCLAMATION:

"I Never Had So Many People Hate Me At Once!"

Like Cpl. Cajun, Elix Skipper is 100 percent American. But that didn't stop him from joining Lance Storm's Team Canada. Skipper's only real tie to Canada is a result of his days as a player in the Canadian Football League.

By Harry Burkett

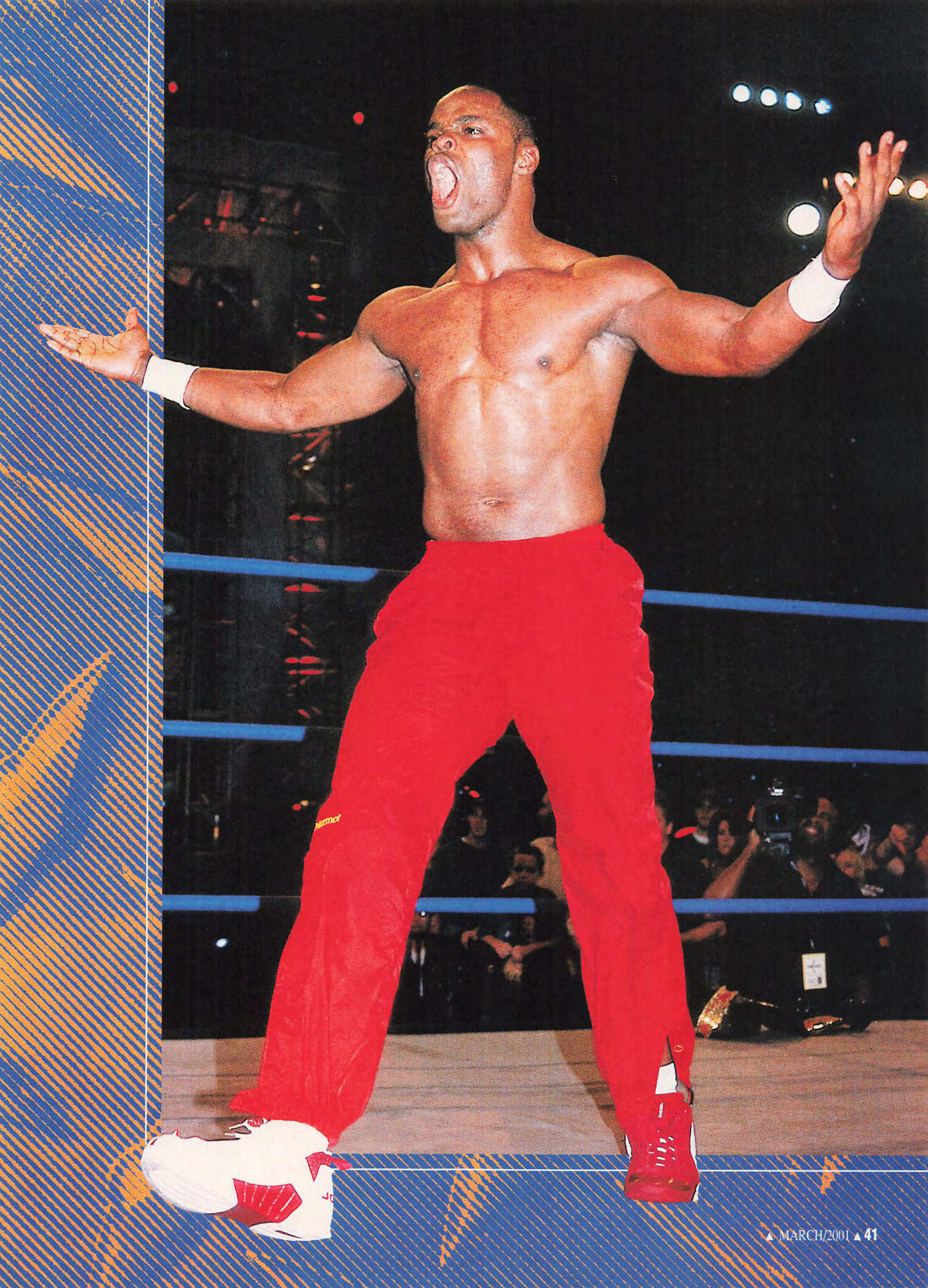
NOT LONG AGO, the name "Elix Skipper" elicited a glazed look over the eyes or a shrug of the shoulders. Those who did know Elix Skipper usually had trouble spitting out his name or remembering it at the appropriate time. And when announcers stammered over his name, it was like, "Is that Skip Elix, Lex Skipper, Skipper Felix ... oh, whatever that guy's name is."

It became easier when Skipper adopted the nickname "Prime Time." Tony Schiavone and the rest of the headset posse could say "'Prime Time' this" or "'Prime Time' that." It became so easy that most folks forgot "Prime Time's" real name ... until he joined Team Canada, that is.

Now no one has a problem remembering Elix Skipper's name. "Prime Time"? The consensus is that he's a prime time jerk. Think we're being hard on the poor kid? Judge for yourself.

"I'm 'Prime Time,' baby, and I'm where it's at," raved Skipper. "The men envy me and the women love me. Just look at my pretty face. You can peruse it, you can schmooze it, but, baby, please don't bruise it! Hey, baby, let's hear it for the boy!"

Spend five minutes with Skipper and it'll become clear to you why he annoys people. But arrogance and self-promotion are indelible aspects of the busi-



ness—and part of the reason why it's so entertaining. Scott Steiner, Kevin Nash, Jeff Jarrett, and Lex Luger are all egotistical. And, like them or hate them, most fans wouldn't have it any other way.

But Skipper is an unusual case. There's genuine resentment when "Prime Time," who has yet to really prove himself in the sport, spouts off. One doesn't have to go far to discover why.

"This punk doesn't have any reason to be so arrogant!" complained Lt. Loco, otherwise known as Chavo Guerrero Jr. "He's only been with the company for a year, and he finally made it to *Nitro* only a few months ago. He has no achievements, no reason to be such a braggart. I can see somebody like Ric Flair or Sting or Kevin Nash bragging, but Elix Skipper? Give me a break!"

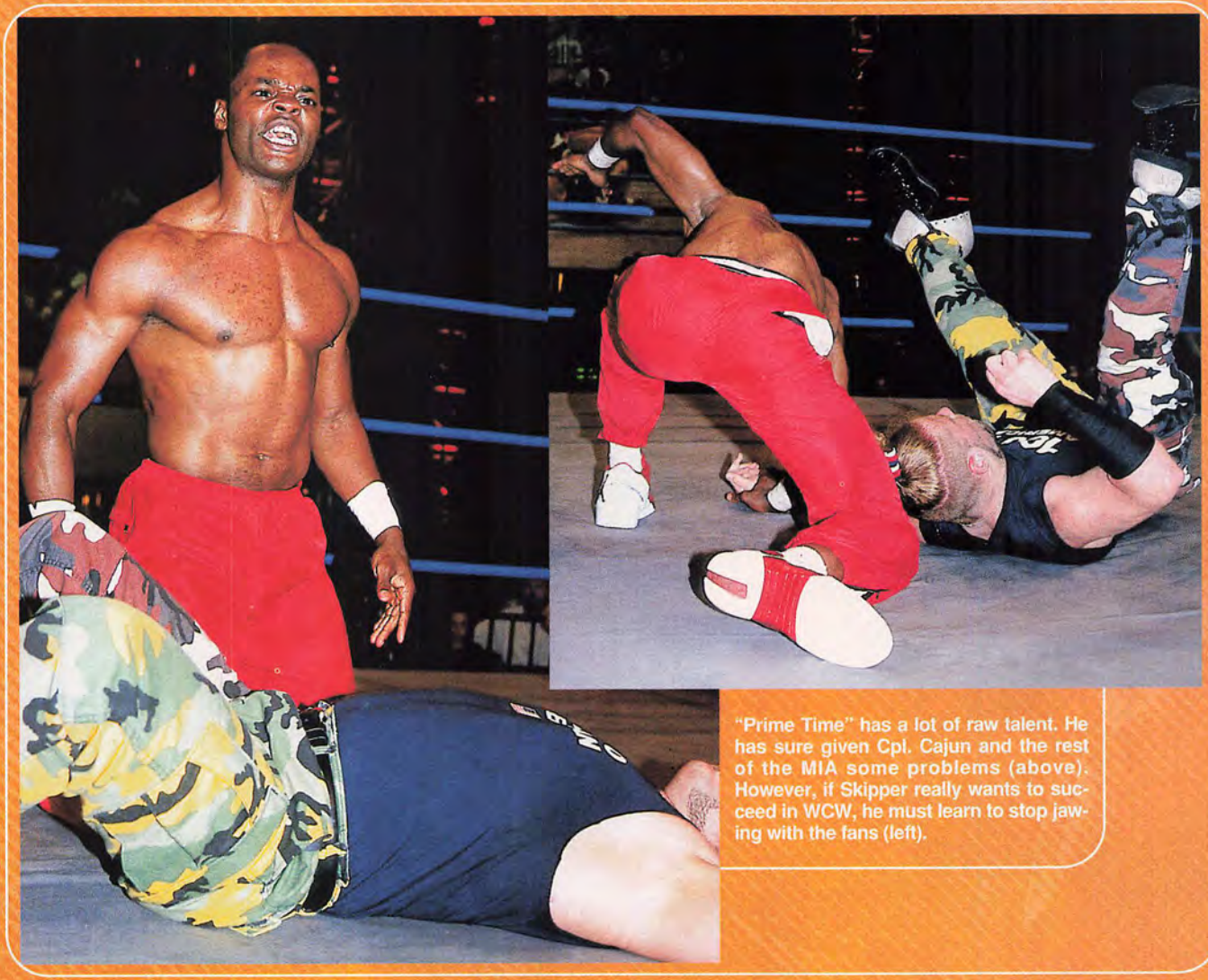
Actually, Skipper does have something to brag about. That is the WCW cruiserweight title, which he lost to Mike Sanders, but only because of the interference of Kevin Nash.

"What a joke!" exclaimed Lt. Loco. "Lance Storm handed Elix that title! He didn't win it on his own! And that goes to something else. I busted my butt in this company for almost four years before I had a chance at the cruiserweight belt. I've done everything required of me, from jumping around with a stick pony to dressing up like an Amway salesman. I'm not really complaining about that, because that's part of the business, but Elix hasn't paid any of those dues, man."

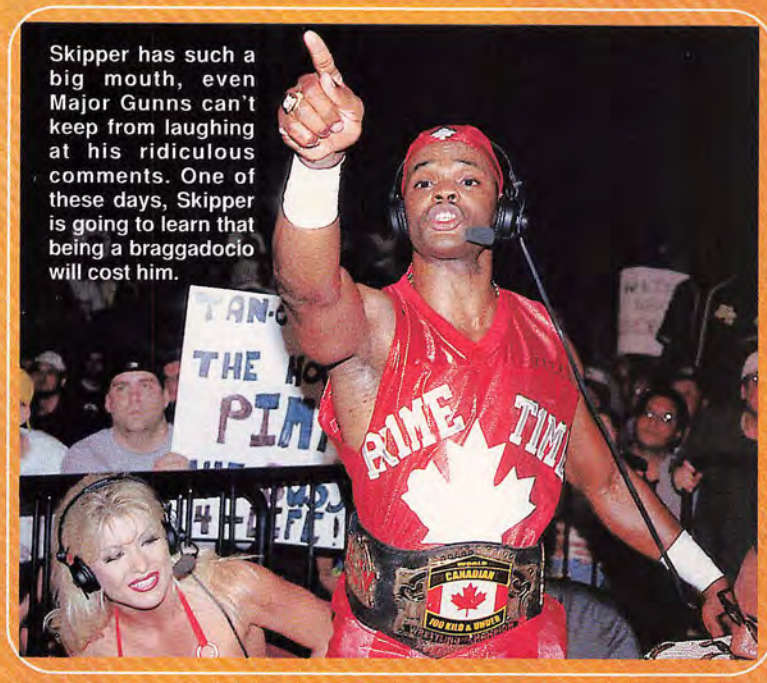
> "Skipper has been pushed hard and fast, usually at the expense of stars who have been laboring in WCW for a much longer time. That's enough to make him a hated figure."

That clears up the picture a bit. Skipper has been pushed hard and fast, usually at the expense of stars who have been laboring in WCW for a much longer time. That's enough to make him a hated figure. Then there's a third and more important reason: his alliance with Team Canada.

First of all, Skipper's not Canadian. All he did was play for the Canadian Football League. But to give him his due, if it weren't for Skipper, Team Canada would be dead by now. Carl Oulette and Jacques Rougeau were



"Prime Time" has a lot of raw talent. He has sure given Cpl. Cajun and the rest of the MIA some problems (above). However, if Skipper really wants to succeed in WCW, he must learn to stop jawing with the fans (left).



Skipper has such a big mouth, even Major Gunns can't keep from laughing at his ridiculous comments. One of these days, Skipper is going to learn that being a braggadocio will cost him.

gone from WCW before most realized they had arrived. Skipper, along with leader Lance Storm, were the two men who continued to wave the Canadian banner and keep the group name and spirit intact before their next big recruit, Jim Duggan, came aboard. But because he's not truly Canadian, his alliance with Team Canada, no matter how successful it has been, is looked down upon by the majority of wrestlers in the locker room.

"Call me a traitor, but I don't fault Elix Skipper for his allegiance to Team Canada," said WCW broadcaster Mark Madden. "Almost all of the up-and-coming young talent in WCW think that aligning themselves with some faction is the quickest way to get noticed. Most of the Power Plant trainees are now part of The Natural Born Thrillers, which I contend is every bit as ruthless, if not more so, than Team Canada.

"His arrogance? Well, I think we should give him a pass on that, too. If he doesn't carry himself as a WCW superstar, and doesn't portray himself as such, then no one will give him respect. As it is right now, talking a good game is the first step in being part of the game."

But talking a good game without being able to back it up could have serious consequences. It made him a prime target for The Natural Born Thrillers and led to Mike Sanders' title victory over Skipper.

How about this "Prime Time" moment? Remember when Elix Skipper, rockin' his head to and fro, bragged about being the real star of WCW prior to a match against Bill Goldberg on *Thunder?* He said he was bigger than Ric Flair, Sting, and, you guessed it, Goldberg. While his motor mouth was running, Goldberg entered the ring and stood behind Skipper. "Yak, yak, yak," continued Skipper. Then he turned around and stood nose-to-navel with "Da Man" himself.

One jackhammer and spear later, Skipper lay on the canvas watching a kaleidoscope of lights.

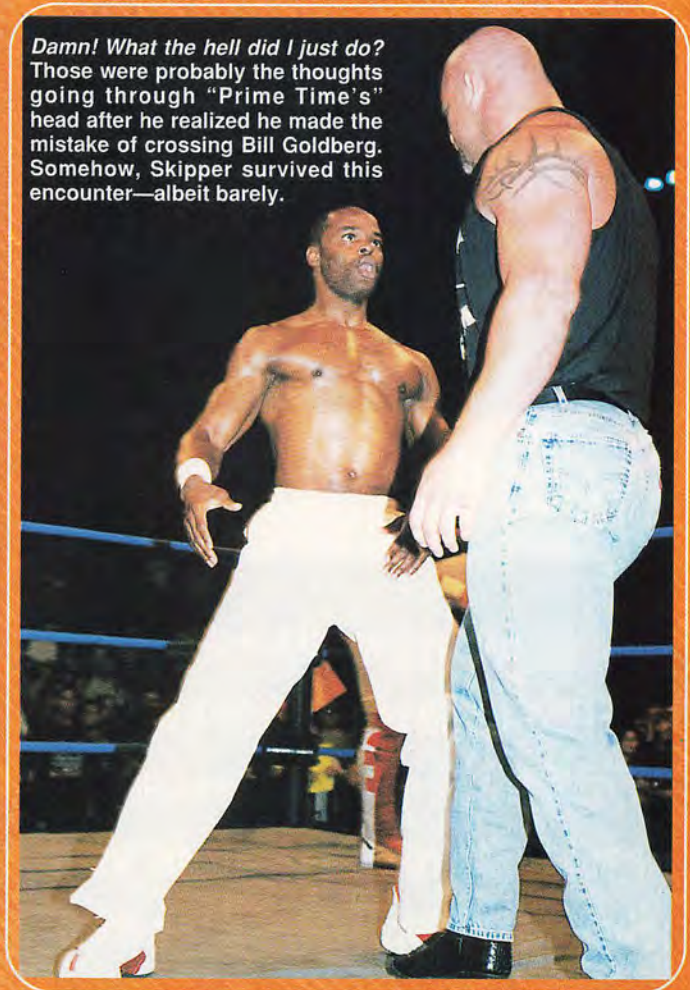
"Hmmmmmmph!" grunted Skipper. "That Goldberg chump ain't got nothin' on 'Prime Time.' He had to jump me from behind, and then he got a fast three-count. Ain't nothin' so special about that! He was perpetratin' a fraud is what he was doin'. Goldberg ... he's some kinda chump!"

It's good to see that Skipper's humiliating loss to the former WCW champ didn't dampen his spirits. But Skipper got off easy. Goldberg considered Skipper more of an amusement than a threat. What will happen when Skipper makes someone *really* angry?

More importantly, what will happen if he stops living up to Lance Storm's high expectations? Storm could pull the plug on Skipper's mock Canadian citizenship and decide to make an example out of the youth.

"That ain't gonna happen, because me and Lance are tight Canadian patriots," said Skipper. "Besides, Lance likes my style. He likes it when people boo me, because that way, he knows we're makin' a difference. And, brother, I know I'm doin' my job real good. I never had so many people hate me at once!"

Skipper is making a name for himself by being a braggart and a Canadian thug. That's fine ... if he keeps a relatively low profile. But if he keeps running his mouth and insulting the wrong people, he'll no longer be considered a joke. He'll be a target. □



Damn! What the hell did I just do? Those were probably the thoughts going through "Prime Time's" head after he realized he made the mistake of crossing Bill Goldberg. Somehow, Skipper survived this encounter—albeit barely.

It was Triple-H (top left) who called upon X-Pac to hunt down Chris Jericho (above). He left Y2J a bloody mess a few times (right), but rest assured that Jericho has *not* forgotten about Helmsley.

"For some reason, another showdown with Chris Jericho seems to rattle Hunter. Perhaps it was the last-man-standing match. Maybe it's Y2J's frenzied popularity with WWF fans. Maybe it's the fact that Jericho withstood X-Pac's most savage advances to dish out punishment of his own."

WHY TRIPLE-H MADE X-PAC THE HUNTER AND CHRIS JERICHO THE GAME!

By Frank Krewda

HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY is a busy man. Trying to win the WWF title back is a full-time job. Tack on the task of keeping Kurt Angle away from his wife, Stephanie, and being "The Game" becomes a 24-hour-per-day gig. Mix in challenges from Rikishi, Chris Benoit, and Kane and you can't deny that HHH has been spreading himself way too thin.

So when Chris Jericho threatened Helmsley's spot in the WWF's top tier, the weary former champ did what any established superstar would do: He knocked the up-and-comer right back down.

Only this time, Helmsley, whose courage is usually beyond reproach, didn't do it himself. Instead, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED has learned from several sources that he reached out for help, and his best friend, X-Pac, was only too glad to oblige.

Just as Jericho targeted Triple-H as his ticket to the top, X-Pac targeted Y2J as his quarry and carried out his mission with just as much resolve, attacking Jericho at every chance.

And no method was too

No doubt about it—Jericho gave Hunter a few of his most grueling matches of 2000. With all he has to worry about in the WWF right now, it's understandable that Helmsley would want someone else to deal with Y2J.

crude or severe. X-Pac used nunchakus, tables, chairs—any weapon he could find—to take Jericho out.

"Hey, friends help friends, man," X-Pac, who denied that he was specifically "sent after" Jericho by Hunter, explained. "I've always hated that guy. What kind of friend would I be if I decided to go after him and did a half-assed job?"

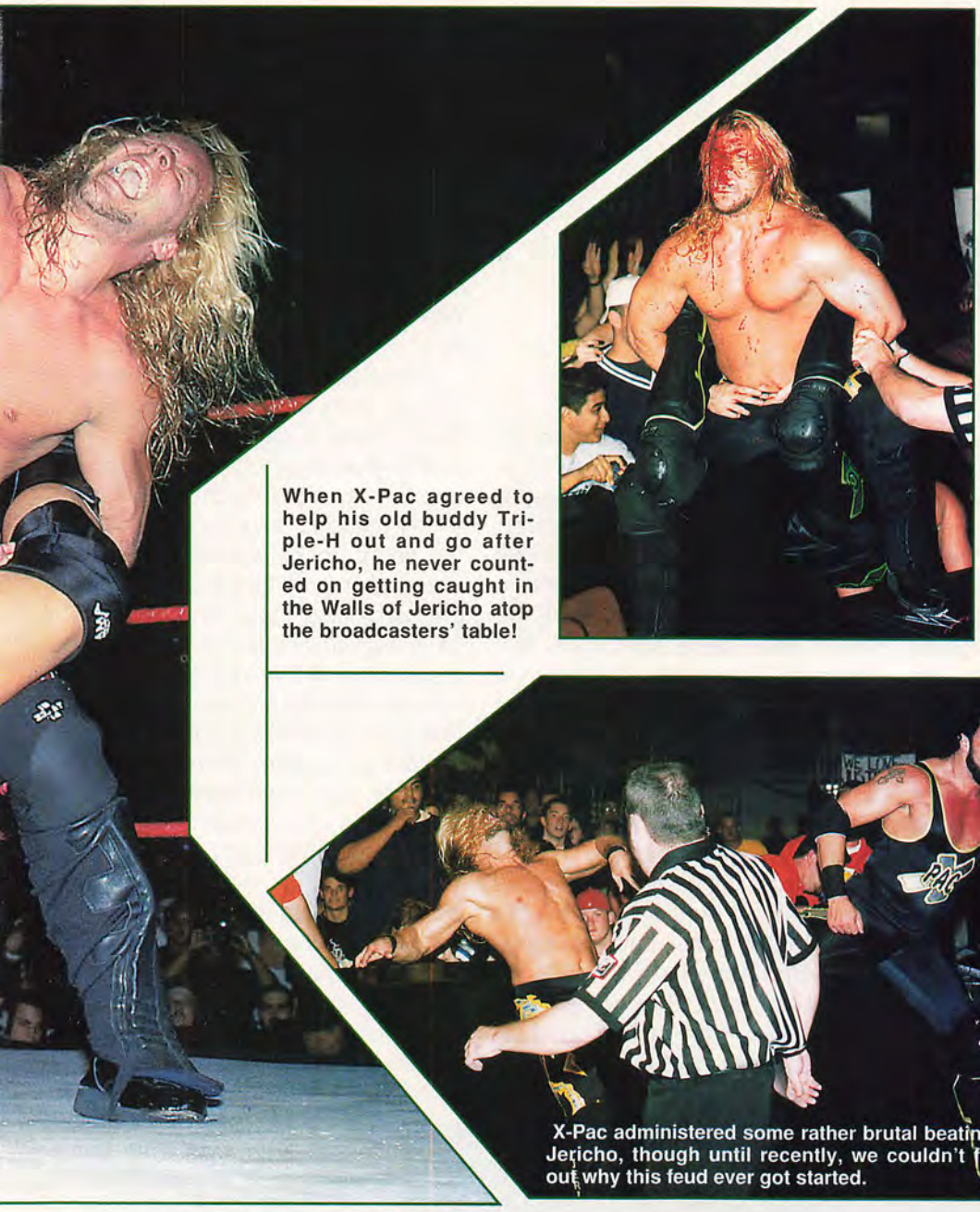
You have to admire X-Pac's loyalty, but in his haste to be a model chum, he didn't count on making Y2J even more of a hit with the fans. Sure, he tagged Jericho for several stitches, and, yes, he cost him several key victories, but the popularity Jericho gained from this feud (which he dominated) might just propel him closer to the cherished top tier anyway. Chances are Jericho will have even more momentum the next time he and Helmsley meet.

"I considered it kind of like a fun little challenge to take out Jericho, which I did over and over again," said X-Pac. "I knew he'd come out of this lookin' pretty bad, but as far as where he goes from here, I don't really give a damn."

Apparently, Triple-H didn't think this whole thing through, either. And who can blame him after he narrowly edged Jericho in a last-man-standing match at Fully Loaded. Helmsley entered the bout a heavy favorite, but left a battered, bloodied, and nearly defeated warrior. "The Game" may not admit it, but Y2J certainly earned his respect that night.

"Respect is fine," said a confident Jericho. "But I'd rather be getting my shot at the WWF title. And if Triple-H wants to hide behind his buddies, that's fine with me. But that jackass can't hide forever."

The ebb and flow of the WWF title scene will guarantee that. Yet even if Triple-H doesn't have the title, Jericho, who has a well-earned reputation for manipulating match-



When X-Pac agreed to help his old buddy Triple-H out and go after Jericho, he never counted on getting caught in the Walls of Jericho atop the broadcasters' table!

X-Pac administered some rather brutal beatings to Jericho, though until recently, we couldn't figure out why this feud ever got started.

makers, will demand a rematch. Remember the way Jericho played then-WCW Executive Committee Chairman J.J. Dillon back in 1998?

And if Jericho's petitions don't work, perhaps a louder outcry will come from the fans. While X-Pac's intercession made for a fairly entertaining feud with Jericho, there's no doubt WWF fans wanted to see the Helmsley-Y2J battle played out to its grueling, bone-crunching conclusion. But if the fans are waiting for HHH to engage Jericho under his own volition, they may be in for a long wait.

"So some people were sad because Chris Jericho didn't get his shot," Helmsley sniped. "That's too damn bad. Who really cares?! Answer me this: Who the hell is Chris Jericho? Who the hell is he to demand anything from me?

"I carried that idiot to the greatest match of his career. I'm 'The Game,' not him. If I wrestle Chris Jericho again, it will be when I decide. Not when Chris Jericho decides and definitely not when anyone else wants it."

Sound like garden-variety coward-speak? Coming from another wrestler, yes, but not from Hunter Hearst Helmsley. During his career in the WWF, Triple-H can be accused of many things: arrogance, cruelty, boorishness, even bad taste. But no one could ever accuse him of cowardice—especially not during his four World title reigns.

After all, Triple-H put his belt up against everyone from Taka Michinoku to "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin. He wrestled with injuries that would have shelved lesser men and he overcame the McMahon political machine, and he has looked damn good doing it.

Still, for some reason, another showdown with Chris Jericho seems to rattle Hunter. Perhaps it was the last-man-standing match. Maybe it's Y2J's frenzied popularity with WWF fans. Maybe it's the fact that Jericho withstood X-Pac's most savage advances to dish out punishment of his own.

Actually, it's all of that, and more, according to Y2J.

"I'm the only man in the WWF who Triple-H hasn't been able to control—oh, except for The Brooklyn Brawler," Jericho chuckled. "The fans know it. And he knows it."

True as they sound, Helmsley dismisses the comments as Jericho's attempt to irritate him—a skill over which Y2J has awesome command.

"That's pure crap, plain and simple," Triple-H countered. "The fact is, I have enough to worry about without this goofy Canuck in the mix. I just need some time to straighten out a few things, then there will be plenty of time to kick Chris Jericho's ass again. What the hell, I've earned the right to run my own career, haven't I?"

Yes, he sure has. Just like Chris Jericho has earned the right to wrestle Triple-H one more time.

At least one more time. □

THE BUSINESS PAGE

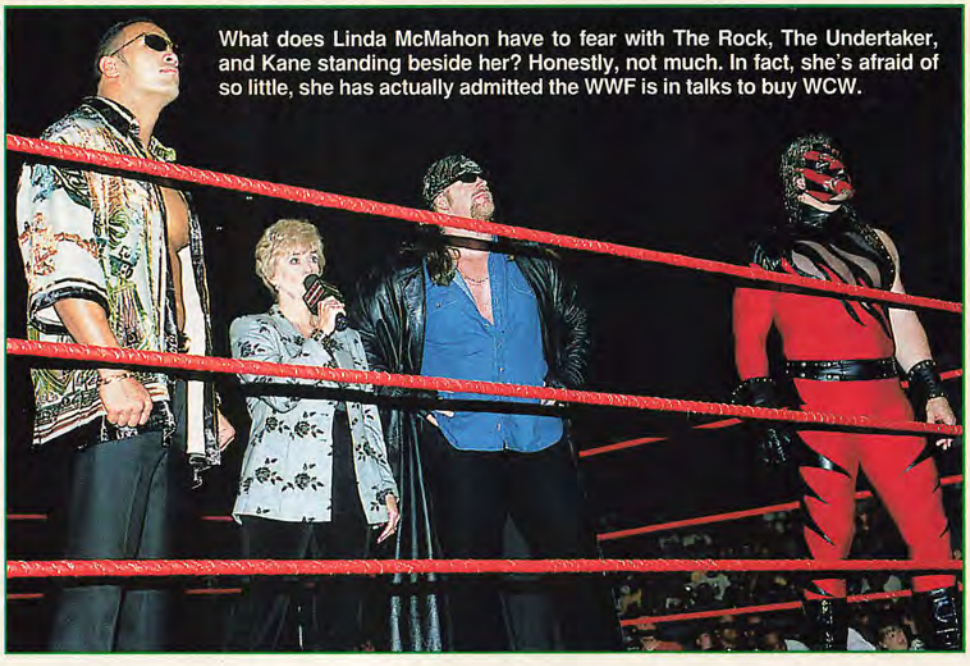
By Harry Burkett

The mother of all monopolies? In what could be the greatest shakeup of the wrestling landscape ever, Vince McMahon and the WWF are negotiating to buy WCW from Time Warner as of press time. Linda McMahon acknowledged the negotiations—but offered no details—on CNBC and Bloomberg News in late-October.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, WWFE exercised its right to match any offers for WCW—which was reportedly awarded to the WWF as part of a previous lawsuit settlement with WCW—and derailed the proposal offered by Mandalay Sports, the bid spearheaded by former WCW President Eric Bischoff.

Sources inside the WWF suggested that if the deal goes through, a WWF-WCW rivalry could be played out in the next few months, with each company operating separately under the WWFE banner. The short-term interest would be phenomenal, as potential dream matches could be realized. Fans could see Steve Austin vs. Bill Goldberg, Triple-H vs. Scott Steiner, or Kurt Angle vs. Jeff Jarrett. But what would happen after those initial dramatic showdowns? WCW could be the WWF's minor league company, or it could be absorbed by its corporate big brother.

Anti-trust concerns were voiced immediately. Would talent on the WWF/WCW roster have leverage when dealing with the WWF, or would it be at the company's mercy? Would the lack of competition cause the WWF's product to stagnate?



What does Linda McMahon have to fear with The Rock, The Undertaker, and Kane standing beside her? Honestly, not much. In fact, she's afraid of so little, she has actually admitted the WWF is in talks to buy WCW.

ECW doesn't have the clout to compete against the WWF. Financial woes within that organization have resurfaced, and ECW's lack of a national cable outlet threaten the company's solvency in the short term. Besides, Paul Heyman might be more interested in cultivating a relationship with the WWF than becoming an adversary.

There is another dimension to this big news story. Why didn't the WWF make a bid for WCW long before Mandalay entered the picture? It is possible the WWF is simply trying to drive up the cost of the company? It would certainly keep other potential bidders from the bargaining table. And it would be in McMahon's better interest to make sure WCW withers on the vine rather than overextending WWFE by purchasing it himself.

Who's "Da Man"? Bill Goldberg was the man advertised for *CNN Newsstand* on October 22, but is that really what CNN delivered? The promos for the show were provocative, with the tag line, "Find out what Goldberg is angry about!"

It turns out that Goldberg was angry about being forced to turn heel this past spring. He enjoyed his status as a role model and didn't want to disappoint the kids who supported him. Vince Russo, who was also interviewed on the program, claimed that Goldberg's turn was what the company needed. Goldberg's mother and girlfriend were interviewed, too.

Goldberg fans were probably frustrated by the fact that Russo was discussed and interviewed as much as "Da Man" himself. In fact, CNN cameras went inside a booking session featuring Russo, Terry Taylor, Ed Ferrara, Bill Banks, Jeremy Borash, Disqo, and others.

So what was the story about, Goldberg or Russo? Probably Russo as much as

Goldberg, but advertising Russo as the focus doesn't attract viewers.

Waking up to wrestlers ... Superstars from the WWF and WCW have been making the rounds on the morning talk show circuit. WWF wrestlers appeared on *Live With Regis* during the entire week of October 23 to promote the federation's new cookbook, *Can You Take The Heat?*

Recipes included Chyna's Guacamole Salad, Triple-H's Swordfish à la Helmsley, Lita's Spicy Black Beans with Onion and Bacon dish, Kurt Angle's All-American Apple Pie, and Steve Austin's "Stomp A Mud Hole In Your Steaks And Ribs" Simmering Sauce. The wrestlers discussed their careers, demonstrated their signature maneuvers, and prepared their specialties.

The Harris boys appeared on *The Maury Povich Show* on October 16. The show spotlighted twins in the entertainment business. Ron and Don shared the stage with a twin pair of celebrity impersonators and twin belly dancers. Once again proving the mainstream media's ignorance concerning pro wrestling, Maury introduced the Harrises as "members of the World Wrestling Championship."

WWF vs. WWF ... The World Wildlife Fund filed a lawsuit in London against the World Wrestling Federation for the sole use of its initials, WWF, reported the Associated Press. While the wildlife preservation organization agreed to a peaceful co-existence with the wrestling company in 1994, it contends that the widespread use of the Internet and massive expansion of the World Wrestling Federation is making the arrangement difficult to maintain.

The organization is known by its original name, the World Wildlife Fund, in the United States, despite adopting the Worldwide Fund For Nature as its name everywhere else 14 years ago. The fund believes it has a greater right to the name because it was founded in 1961, before the founding of the wrestling federation. According to fund spokeswoman Anita Neville, "It would be the same if McDonald's were challenging someone over the use of the golden arches." The organization wants the World Wrestling Federation to change its wwf.com address to avoid confusion with the World Wildlife Fund's wwf.org address.

"All these millions and millions of fans—if the environmental group had its way—would type in wwf.com, and instead of seeing everything they've seen for years are going to be directed to their site and learn about panda bears and whatever they're doing to save the world," said Jerry McDevitt, a WWFE attorney. A verdict should be rendered by next April.

Ron and Don Harris recently appeared on an episode of *The Maury Povich Show*. Maury, however, must not be a wrestling fan. He said they were from "World Wrestling Championship." *Oops.*

WWFE STOCKWATCH

(For the period of October 1-31)

30-Day High: 15¾ on October 27
30-Day Low: 14¼ on October 4 and 11
52-Week High: 25 13/16
52-Week Low: 9¾

WWFE didn't recover from the previous month's significant drop of approximately six points, caused in large part by its failure to sell older wrestling toys and its faltering joint venture with the National Hot Rod Association. October saw the stock stabilize at the 14-to-15-point range.

The company's move from Nasdaq to the New York Stock Exchange on October 25 also failed to energize the price. Several WWF superstars appeared at the Exchange to celebrate the transfer. Matches and festivities were held in Times Square. The stock is now listed as "WWF" instead of "WWFE."

The WWF continues to expand into international television markets, reported Dow Jones. WWFE signed a one-year agreement with Telemundo Network Group to extend its programming to Spanish-speaking American audiences. The deal allows 52 hours of programming, with a potential increase to 156 hours, and adds *WWF Metal* to the network. WWFE already airs programs in Chile and Peru. This particular agreement exposes the WWF to 45 million viewers.

According to Business Wire, Japan's J-Sky Sports has acquired 1,130 hours of WWF programming over a two-year period. The programs include *Raw* and *Smackdown*, and major PPVs that will air as occasional monthly specials. In related stories, WWFE has reached similar agreements with StoryFirst Communications of Russia and the Balkan News Corporation of Bulgaria.

Perhaps the European title will be defended in Europe again someday.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS (Note: Each ratings point represents 750,000 households.)

OCTOBER 2

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	4.4	5.3	5.0	4.5	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.4 (4.8*)
Nitro	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.3	1.8	1.9	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	2.6 (2.4*)

*Head-to-head composite

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Raw's head-to-head numbers against *Nitro* dropped considerably, scoring only a 4.8. *Nitro's* head-to-head numbers dropped only from 2.6 to 2.4. That means the WWF's audience went somewhere during its first hour, probably to *Monday Night Football,* but did not switch to WCW. *Raw's* first segment, which usually features promos that set up the rest of the show, is consistently pulling lower numbers than the actual matches. *Nitro's* Booker T-Jeff Jarrett main event made a significant comeback.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 9

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.4	5.4 (5.0*)
Nitro	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.4	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	2.5 (1.9*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: This week's numbers illustrate *Nitro's* problem. Fans have not given up on *Nitro,* as proven by the 4.1 scored by Ric Flair's return last month and the 3.4 *Nitro* scored prior to the start of *Raw* this week, but it's clear that WCW's product isn't compelling. WCW hit another all-time low this week by earning only 1.9 head-to-head against the WWF. The Sting-Scott Steiner main event did a miserable 1.9 against Chris Benoit and X-Pac vs. Triple-H and Chris Jericho, which scored a 5.2.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 16

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	4.3	4.7	4.5	4.7	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.8 (4.6*)
Nitro	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	2.3 (1.9*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Is it 1996 and not 2000? One would think so by looking at the numbers. Both programs took a drubbing because of two major sports events: *Monday Night Football* and baseball's National League Championship Series. *Raw's* overall ratings went down an entire point, but *Nitro's* remained about the same. That indicates that WCW's viewers are diehard wrestling fans, while a decent percentage of WWF's fans are casual, mainstream viewers.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 23

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.0	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.9	6.6	5.5 (5.0*)
Nitro	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.0	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	2.2 (1.8*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: WCW hit another all-time low. Its head-to-head rating against the WWF was only 1.8. Segments 6Q and 7Q were especially low, dropping to 1.6 each. Those segments included a Crowbar interview, a review of the David Flair/Stacy Keibler soap opera, Crowbar vs. Vampiro, and the start of Shane Douglas vs. Konnan. The WWF countered with the Lita-Trish Stratus bra and panties match, an Edge and Christian promo, a Chris Benoit interview, Benoit vs. Road Dogg, a Triple-H promo, and a Kane-Chris Jericho confrontation.

OTHER BIG THREE NETWORK & CABLE SHOWS

(For the weeks of September 30, October 7, 14, and 21, respectively)

WWF

Smackdown (UPN): 4.7, 5.0, 5.0, 4.7 (broadcast ratings)
Sunday Night Heat (MTV): 2.0, 2.6, 2.2, 2.1
Livewire (TNN): 0.9, 1.0, 1.1, 1.3
Superstars (TNN): 1.1, 1.2, 1.1, 1.2

WCW

Thunder (TBS): 2.0, 1.9, 1.9, 1.9

ECW

ECW On TNN:* 0.6
*Final show aired on October 6

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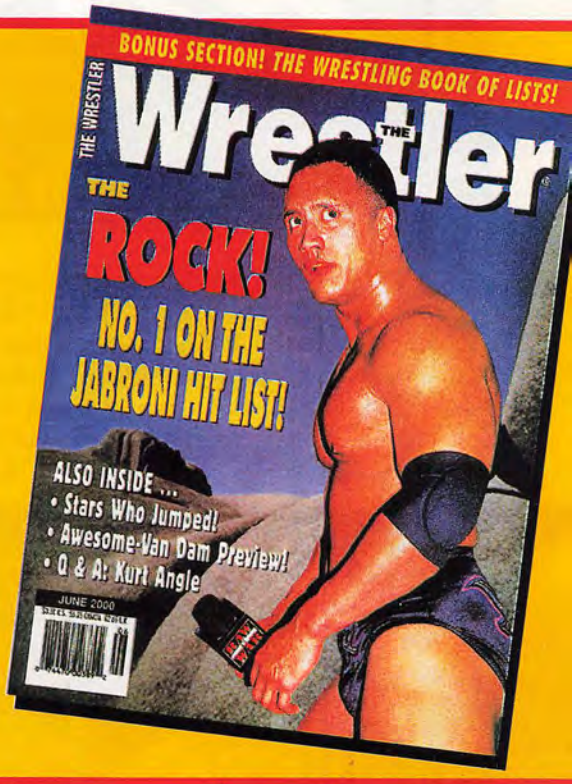
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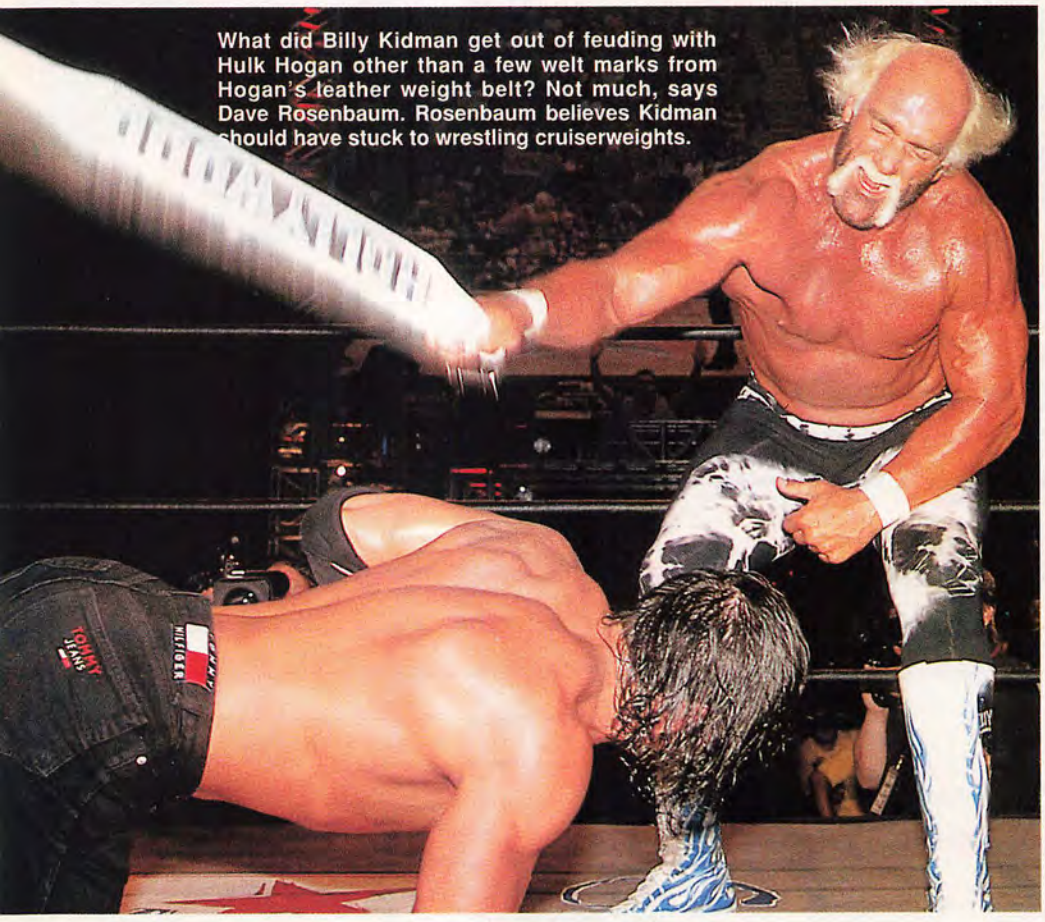
the steel cage

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHO IS KIDMAN KIDDING? Now don't be shocked, but this month, I'm going to write about Billy Kidman. I just thought that once in a while in this column, I should write about wrestling. So here's your year's worth of actual wrestler analysis in "Steel Cage." I should remind you that the opinions spewed out in this column do not represent the spewings of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, but merely the spewings of this columnist.

Ready? Let's do this.



What did Billy Kidman get out of feuding with Hulk Hogan other than a few welt marks from Hogan's leather weight belt? Not much, says Dave Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum believes Kidman should have stuck to wrestling cruiserweights.

Feuding with Hulk Hogan was the worst thing that happened to Billy Kidman.

Right about now, you're probably thinking, *No wonder Rosenbaum never writes about wrestling. He doesn't know anything about it. Anybody with half a brain knows that the Hogan vs. Kidman feud last spring was the best thing that ever happened to Kidman's career.*

Well, that's only half-true. At the time, pinning Hogan in a non-match at *Nitro* last April was the best thing that ever happened to Kidman. It converted him overnight from undersized, overlooked, but extremely talented cruiserweight into one of the most hated and famous men in WCW.

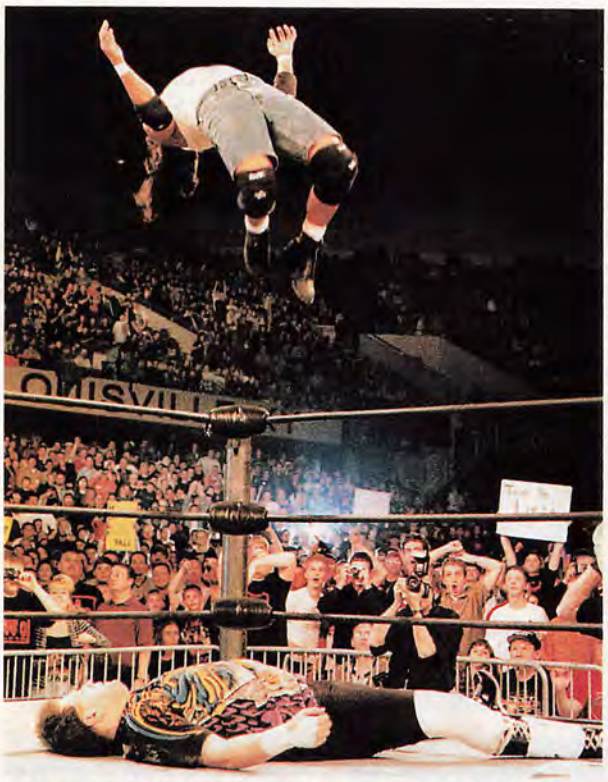
Ah, but let's look at what else that famous incident did for Kidman's career: It took him out of the cruiserweight title picture, which is exactly where a 5'11", 195-pound aerial artist belongs.

And I have a question: Has anybody seen the shooting star press lately? Has Kidman forgotten what got him to the big dance in the first place?

Kidman spent most of the spring feuding with Hogan, most of the summer feuding with Shane Douglas (and crying over the loss of Torrie Wilson), and most of the fall recovering from injuries. Now he and Rey Misterio Jr. are concentrating on the WCW World tag team title.

Let me make this very clear: WCW fans don't want Kidman and Misterio to be on the same side. They want Kidman and Misterio to have great matches against each other.

Let me make another thing very clear: Billy Kidman should not be feuding with Hulk Hogan, Shane Douglas, and Scott Steiner, who destroyed him in a match in October. He should be owning the WCW cruiserweight title, because that's what he is: a cruiserweight. A very, very talented cruiserweight.



There's no doubt that the shooting star press is the move that elevated Kidman from cruiserweight nobody to cruiserweight star. Since he dumped the move, his career has lost a bit of its luster.

You know, I don't know what gets into the minds of these little guys. They beat a couple of big men, then the next time they look in the mirror they think they're heavyweights. Kidman is no heavyweight.

True fact number one: At press time, Kidman hadn't been WCW cruiserweight since March 15, 1999.

True fact number two: That's ridiculous.

Of course, as Matt Brock keeps pointing out to me, a lot of Kidman's problems (although I'm sure Kidman doesn't think he has problems) started when he cried over not getting a push. "Boo-hoo," he kept crying. "I'm not getting a push. I'm going to go sign with the WWF." So Kidman got his push. He pinned Hogan in a non-match, then tried to run him over with a Hummer. The New Blood vs. Millionaires Club feud was very hot for a while. It turned Kidman into a big deal.

As Matt Brock also keeps pointing out to me, Kidman's problems intensified because of a woman. Brock always breaks out in a cold sweat whenever he sees wrestlers feuding over a woman. In Kidman's case, he was snubbed by Torrie Wilson, so he tried to take out his frustrations on Shane Douglas. He was so successful getting revenge that he ended up getting pushed off a scaffold.

Then came his match (I'd prefer to call it a mugging) with 275-pound Scott Steiner. Kidman vs. "Big Poppa Pump" is like me vs. John Updike in a writing contest.

(Oops ... that might have been too close to being a Dennis Miller joke.)

The result of all this is that Kidman is not a contender for the cruiserweight title and not a contender for the World heavyweight title (unless half of the heavyweights lose about 50 pounds each). He's a contender for the World tag team title, but you can count on two hands the number of wrestlers who have become famous by going after tag team titles. It's not a very fulfilling way for a cruiserweight to spend his career.

I'm not saying Kidman was wrong to shoot for the stars. I think everybody should shoot for the stars. But when Kidman was facing the heavyweights, he wasn't facing the heavyweight champion. He was just facing heavyweights in grudge matches. Meanwhile, he was forgetting about the cruiserweight title.

If I'm Billy Kidman, I'd rather be the big dog in the cruiserweight division—which is where I belong—than a medium-sized dog in the heavyweight division, which is where I don't belong.

Anyway, I've said my piece. Next month, I'll go back to writing about topics only slightly related to wrestling. □

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win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

MANY OF US saw it coming. That might generate cries of outrage, but anyone who thought the nearly 700-pound Yokozuna was a healthy man was delusional. Anyone claiming to be shocked by Yokozuna's death in a London hotel room on October 23 is not being honest.

If you see it coming, is there anything you can do about it? Sometimes. Sometimes not. Anyone who has an alcoholic or drug user as a relative knows what I'm talking about. There's only so much that family, friends, and co-workers can do if someone is engaged in self-destructive behavior.

I'm not saying Yokozuna was addicted to food. Genetics might have been a factor. But it's obvious that Yokozuna didn't get the help he needed. He should have dealt with his problem.

There you have it. I've dealt with the death aspect of Yokozuna's story. It's that gloomy pall that hangs over any life prematurely cut short. The tragedy of the death, not the celebration of the life, is the main story.

Let me talk about Yokozuna's life. Yokozuna was born Rodney Anoai on October 2, 1966. He was a member of the famous Samoan wrestling family, which includes Afa, Sika, Samu, and numerous others. He debuted in 1984, at the young age of 18, and later rose to prominence in the AWA. He was known as Kokina Maximus, a gargantuan for the time, but still a few hundred pounds lighter than he was in his prime. He also competed in New Japan before entering the WWF eight years later.

He was renamed Yokozuna, which means "grand champion" in the sumo wrestling world. Yoko never actually competed in sumo professionally, but that didn't stop him from adopting a sumo persona in the WWF. Under the guidance of Mr. Fuji, Yokozuna won the 1993 Royal Rumble and went on to defeat Bret Hart for the WWF World title at WrestleMania IX in Las Vegas. A few minutes later, Yoko accepted a challenge from Hulk Hogan, thereby ending one of the shortest WWF title reigns in history.

But his minutes-long reign, sandwiched between Hart and Hogan, solidified Yokozuna as the WWF's top bad guy. He shocked the world by upsetting Hogan for the WWF title on June 13, 1993. Hogan's decade of dominance in the WWF ended with salt in the eyes and a banzai drop.

Yokozuna was the most dominant bad guy champion the WWF had seen since Superstar Graham. Yokozuna, along with managers Fuji and Jim Cornette, frustrated WWF fan favorites at every turn. He derailed the Lex Express at SummerSlam '93. He beat The Undertaker in a casket match at the '94 Royal Rumble. After an amazing nine-month reign, Yokozuna dropped the belt back to Bret Hart at WrestleMania X.

Yokozuna, along with Owen Hart, captured the WWF

Anyone who saw Yokozuna on the independent circuit even a few years ago knew that his weight had become a real problem. Now that he's gone, his weight is what people talk about most. Let's not forget he had a pretty nice career.

World tag team championship twice in 1995. Despite his meteoric success, Yokozuna was forced out of the WWF in 1996 due to his failure to pass a physical administered by the New York State Athletic Commission. His failure to pass that physical, which is recognized as valid in several other states in the U.S., plagued him for the rest of his career.

Yokozuna appeared at several independent shows and toured Great Britain. I met Yokozuna the night before a Maryland Championship Wrestling show in December 1998. He was a last-minute replacement for Terry Funk, who had been injured a few nights before. He was making a public appearance at a local Walmart, signing autographs and posing for pictures.

Yoko went out of his way to be friendly to the children so they wouldn't be intimidated by his size. With a broad smile, he'd say, "C'mon, champ," to the next kid in line. Sometimes he'd have two or three kids on his knees at once. I didn't sense any bitterness about being relegated to an indy show. The fans respected him, and he wanted to express his appreciation for that respect.

The MCW match won't be remembered as a Yokozuna classic. Except for this mention, it probably won't be remembered at all. He teamed with A.J. Fritzoid to defeat Sucka Punch and Sydeswype. He moved well, but didn't wrestle that long. I could tell it was difficult for him. I thought, *If only this guy could lose about 200 pounds.*

Big Yoko applies a nervehold against Genichiro Tenryu during a 1995 tour of the Orient. Though technical wrestling was obviously not his greatest strength, he was a dominant figure in the industry for a few years.

Apparently, that's all the WWF expected out of him, too. There were rumors of Yokozuna going to WCW to renew his feud with Hulk Hogan, but it never happened. The Big Two may have wanted Yokozuna, but they wanted a slimmer, healthier Yokozuna.

The controversy over Yokozuna's expanding girth while terrorizing the independent circuit earned him a story in the October 1999 issue of *Wrestle America* titled "The Skinny On Yokozuna: He's Too Dangerous To Be An Indy Star."

The story put an interesting twist on things, detailing how Yokozuna, approaching the 700-pound mark, was endangering the health of his opponents. Without the WWF title as an incentive, few wrestlers wanted to risk their own health by facing him.

Yokozuna, assuming we were focusing on *his* health risks, was upset by the story, and he let Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker know it. He was sensitive about his weight. But Yoko had to know he was in trouble.

Yokozuna probably would have had a weight problem whether he became a wrestler or not. If he had remained Rodney Anoai and never became Yokozuna, he could have sat home and tried to enjoy a more normal life with his famous Samoan relatives. But he didn't. Rodney Anoai became a player, he became Yokozuna, and he became WWF World champion. So much for Rikishi's "great white hope" theory.

He didn't have the longevity of other superstars, but his dominance of the WWF in the mid-1990s will forever make him a part of wrestling history. Could a skinny Yokozuna have done that? Probably not. □

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

By Dan Murphy

BY THE TIME you read this, you'll most likely know if Vince McMahon purchased WCW.

The rumors began shortly after Mandalay Entertainment issued a press release stating it had no interest in purchasing the financially strapped promotion. Eric Bischoff and former child actor Jason Hervey (remember Wayne from *The Wonder Years*?) had been rumored to be assembling an investment group on behalf of Mandalay, but the moment the press release hit the AP wires, the Internet was buzzing with rumors that McMahon was positioning himself to buy his greatest rival.

It seems ludicrous. First of all, with the WWF doing record business, why would McMahon invest in a bloated promotion mired in a sea of red ink? Would a deal of this nature violate the same Sherman Anti-Trust laws that fractured Microsoft? And how would the folks at Viacom feel after forking over the cash to snare *Raw* and the other WWF shows from the USA Network, only to see new WWF-owned programming suddenly debut on another network free of charge? And what about the WWFE investors who have already been blindsided by McMahon's decision to create the XFL? Expect to see some investment portfolios get retooled when Vinnie makes *that* announcement.

Of course, you can't underestimate McMahon's vindictiveness. It would be just like Vince to ignore all those questions just for the opportunity to take control of the promotion that—with a blank checkbook from "Billionaire" Ted Turner—very nearly destroyed the WWF.

While a new set of rumors makes the rounds each day—as of press time, nothing had been officially announced—it seems appropriate to take a look at who would likely emerge as the winners and losers if a deal was to go down:

WINNER: Booker T. Booker went from being an unlikely WCW World champion to the top fan favorite in WCW. He is a perfect example of a wrestler who elevates his game to a new level after winning a world title. Booker is durable, adept at cutting promos, and is hitting his stride as a main-eventer. Booker wouldn't miss a step at all if the WWF and WCW rosters were restructured.

LOSER: Jeff Jarrett. Even though Jarrett agreed to wrestle one last match for the WWF before his latest jump to WCW, he's burned bridges with the likes of Jim Ross and "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin. We're not sure how many Jarrett fans are left in Titantown.

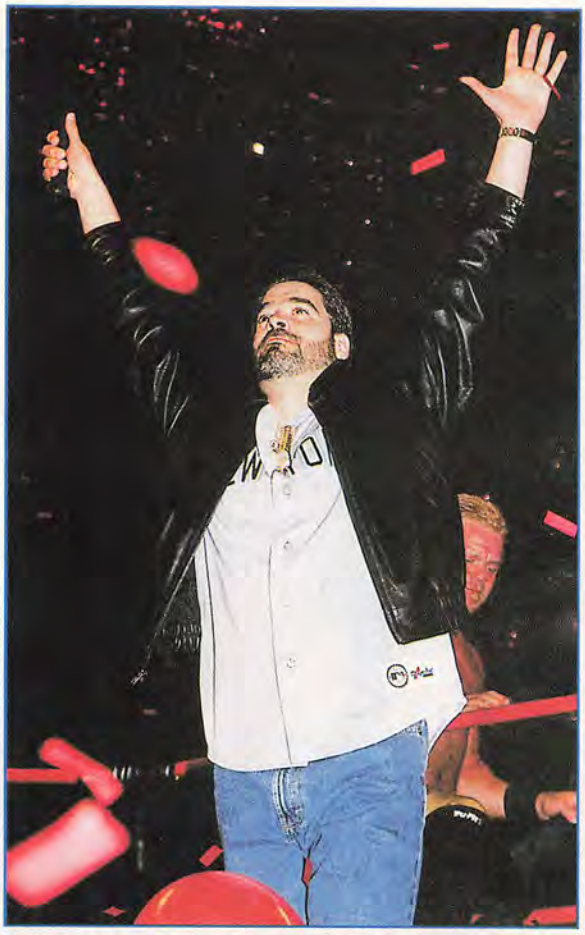
WINNERS: Three Count. Call them Honky Tonk Men 2001. Boo them if you will, but Evan Karagias, Shannon Moore, and Shane Helms consistently deliver exciting matches. Imagine them in a dazzling feud with The Hardy Boyz or Edge and Christian.

LOSERS: The Jung Dragons. I don't know what it is, but undersized *puroresu*-patterned teams don't fare well under McMahon. Kaientai is the latest team to suffer from what I've dubbed "The Oriental Express Syndrome."

WINNER: Scott Hudson. Hudson is the most underrated announcer in the business. He usually avoids the Tony Schiavone-type hyperbole that always manages to detract from even the greatest match, and he never plays the obnoxious buffoon like Mark Madden. He would make a fantastic lead play-by-play man, so long as he isn't inserted into the Jerry Lawler/Jim Ross team.

LOSERS: Schiavone and Madden. You'd better believe McMahon is going to

Although Jeff Jarrett has the upper hand on "Diamond" Dallas Page in this photo, DDP would assuredly be in a better position if Vince McMahon and the WWF purchased WCW. At least that's what the Murph thinks.



If Vince McMahon purchases WCW, Vince Russo should do just one thing: throw up his hands in surrender.

make Schiavone pay for the smug demeanor he exhibited when WCW was trouncing the WWF weekly in the ratings war. Even if he was told to say it, that comment about Mick Foley never putting butts in the seats doesn't sound so funny right about now, does it, Tony? And Madden? He makes Jonathan Coachman sound like Gordon Solie.

WINNER: Vampiro. Even after setting Sting on fire and throwing him off a balcony, he remained a popular cult favorite (now *that* is charisma). Unfortunately, Vampiro keeps getting stuck with dead weight like The Misfits, The Insane Clown Posse, and (believe me, it hurts to say this, but time has taken its toll) The Great Muta. A fresh run in the WWF could (forgive me) reignite Vamp's spark.

LOSER: Sting. It's no secret McMahon has been interested in Sting for a long time. McMahon doesn't take rejection well. And would Sting be willing to work his way back up the ladder of contention? I don't think so.

WINNER: "Diamond" Dallas Page. Page is coming off some injuries and—along with Sting—is one of WCW's most recognized home-grown talents, so why would he be a winner in this scenario? You can never, *ever* count out DDP. Haven't you learned that yet? Plus, he's tight with both Mick Foley and Steve Austin. That's certainly an advantage.

LOSER: Lex Luger. See Sting, and omit the part about McMahon trying to recruit him.

WINNERS: Mike Sanders, Johnny the Bull, Mark Jindrak, and Sean O'Haire. I don't care what anyone else thinks—these guys are entertaining. Sure, they're all a little green, but they've improved exponentially over the past few months. Of all The Natural Born Thrillers, these guys can't miss.

LOSER: Big Vito. Brawling Mafioso-styled fan favorite with his dreaded stickball bat is very reminiscent of The Blacktop Bully. *Ugh.* Bring back Skull Von Crush.

WINNER: Ric Flair. Flair has been on the sidelines for too long. The "Nature Boy" is a former WWF champ, and though he may have slowed a step or three, Flair vs. Austin or The Rock would still be a marquee match. Flair deserves another chance for glory, and because it would make him scads of cash, McMahon would deliver.

LOSER: Eric Bischoff. If this one isn't obvious, you're reading the wrong magazine.

WINNER: The Cat. Ernest Miller's presence translates, no matter where you put him. Imagine The Cat matching wits with Mick Foley in a commissioners debate! Or Miller showing Too Cool how to move. The Cat is where it's at, baby.

LOSER: Pamela Paulshock. Unless Pamela and Lillian Garcia form some kind of tag team, that is. Pamela may be nice on the eyes, but give me Kevin Kelly or Michael Cole for the on-the-spot locker room interviews any day. But that tag team thing *does* sound intriguing. Now if we could just get Lita and Kimberly together ...

WINNER: Scott Steiner. "Big Poppa Pump" is McMahon's kind of competitor. He's built like a monster truck, he can deliver great (though often off-color) promos, and, face it, the guy's a genuine monster. It doesn't matter if it's the WWF title or the WCW title—Steiner is destined to wear one, or maybe both.

ANOTHER WINNER: Bill Goldberg. Yes, you read that right. Goldberg vs. Austin, Goldberg vs. The Rock, and Goldberg vs. Triple-H would be undisputed draws. But would Goldberg be willing to forgive and forget the Gillberg and Triple-H debacles? I think so.

LOSER: Vince Russo. What is it McMahon is so fond of saying ... "Don't cross the boss"? Even a combined WWF/WCW wouldn't be big enough for those two Vinces. □

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THE Wrestling ANALYST

JEFF JARRETT

Years Pro: 14
Size: 5'10", 230
"*PWI* 500" Listings: 2000—5
1999—36
1998—43
1997—17
1996—26
1995—11
1994—35
1993—22
1992—26
Titles: WCW World (4 times)
WCW U.S. (3 times)
WWF Intercontinental (6 times)
WWF European
NWA North American
USWA heavyweight (3 times)
USWA tag team (13 times)
USWA Southern (9 times)
Mid-America
Arkansas state
World Class light heavyweight
World Class tag team (2 times)
***PWI* Awards:** Feud of the Year:
Winner (1992)
2nd runner-up (1995)
Match of the Year
1st runner-up (1995)
Most Improved:
2nd runner-up (1989)
3rd runner-up (1988)
Tag Team of the Year:
3rd runner-up (1991)

THE NUMBERS

Offense (9.0): Jarrett often kicks and stomps at his opponent's knees from the opening bell. If he succeeds in bringing his foe down to at least one knee, he'll likely follow up with successive punches to the face. His goal is to disorient his foe and weaken him for his finisher, the stroke, or maybe a guitar shot to the head.

Defense (10.0): The four-time former WCW World champion is most dangerous on the mat, where he can quickly escape a waistlock and follow up with a hammerlock of his own. Against an aerialist, he can block a flying headscissors with a running power bomb. His favorite escape from an arm twist is a simple hair pull.

Experience (10.0): According to our records, Jarrett has an amazing 45 championship victories on his resume. Jerry Lawler may be the only active wrestler who has won more major titles, but given the frequency of title changes these days, Jarrett should have "The King" beaten by a huge margin if he remains in the business for another 10 years or so.

Conditioning (8.5): There's no way around it. Jarrett is a small guy. He doesn't possess bulging biceps or washboard abdominal muscles. His dedication to aerobic exercise is evident, because he has maintained a fit and trim physique for his entire career. That will see him through.

Science (10.0): Jarrett might be the last great wrestler from the old Southern territorial system. He learned how to mix brawling with wrestling from the Tennessee greats, including Jerry Lawler, Jackie Fargo, and his father, Jerry Jarrett. He's evolved from a student to an absolute master of the game.

Stamina (9.5): This is his primary weapon when it comes to countering the size and strength of his foes. And this is impressive considering that Jarrett bounces off the ropes to add momentum to most of his moves, including running clotheslines, looping right hands, and front kicks to the midsection.

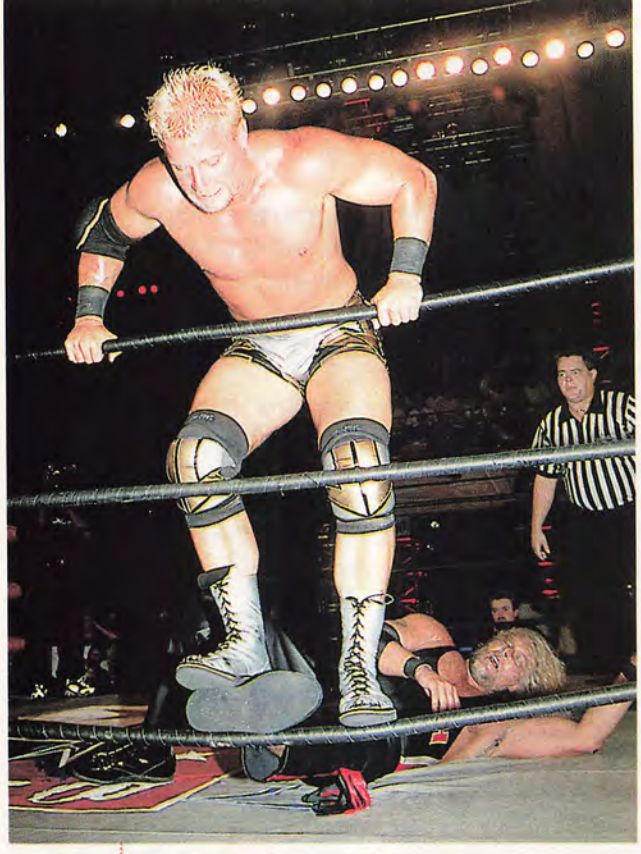
Power (7.0): "The Chosen One" has difficulty executing certain basic maneuvers. When preparing for a piledriver, he usually must grab his opponent by the trunks in addition to lifting him around the waist. Backdrops take every bit of strength he can muster. He's certainly not weak, but power moves are hardly his forte.

Speed (9.0): He isn't as quick as one might suspect, and smaller opponents cause Jarrett problems. It seems to be a problem of timing and coordination rather than pure speed. Fortunately for Jarrett, he's not wrestling Rey Misterio Jr. types on a regular basis. Against larger foes, his speed is more than sufficient.

Ability To Absorb Punishment (9.0): Jarrett is extremely tough considering how his bigger challengers toss him around the ring. He recovers from bodyblocks, tackles, and vicious clotheslines with surprising quickness. He has more trouble with submission finishers such as Sting's scorpion deathlock.

Quality Of Opposition (9.5): The fact that he is a close friend of Vince Russo hasn't guaranteed him a safe and easy run in WCW. Jarrett is so antagonistic that he has managed to do something to offend just about every top star in the company. He has had great matches against Scott Steiner, Booker T, and Sting, among others. The tougher the competition, the more determined Jarrett is to win and look good doing it.

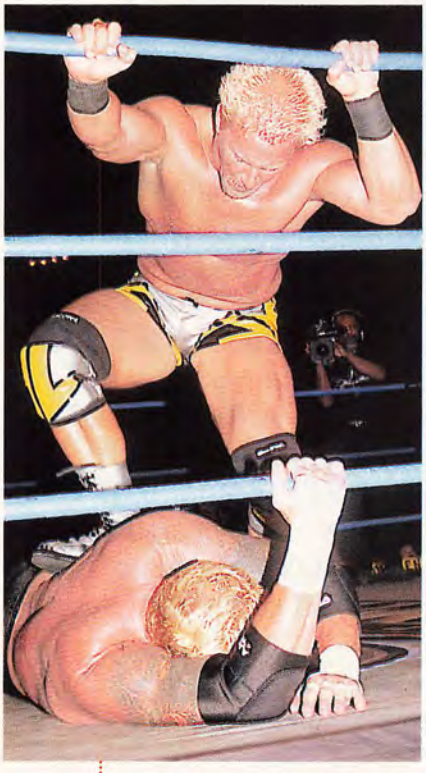
① **When it comes to matching the raw power of men like Brian Adams and Bryan Clark—Kronik—Jeff Jarrett has no chance. If he can get someone like Adams off his feet, however, look out.**



② Jarrett wouldn't consider it an insult if you called him an old school wrestler. He likes concentrating on one part of his opponent's body throughout a match. In this case, he's weakening Kevin Nash's leg to set up a figure-four.

③ The figure-four has always been a staple of Jarrett's repertoire, but because he's used it for so long and is now facing stronger opponents (like Kevin Nash and Sting) who can turn the hold over, he has adopted the stroke as his finisher.

④ **Jarrett's compact build and excellent conditioning make up for the fact that he's not the quickest wrestler. Even "Diamond" Dallas Page, who is more than 10 years older than Jarrett, is a bit faster than he is.**



⑤ **Although "The Chosen One's" mouth often gets his body into trouble, he isn't likely to shy away from any fight. And once he has his opponent in a vulnerable position, he will *never* let up.**

THE ANALYSIS

Repertoire: Jarrett's mat grappling style lends itself to a submission finisher. Unfortunately for Jarrett, the figure-four leglock, while effective through the years, is now predictable. That's why he has adopted the stroke, a reverse Russian legsweep, as his new finisher. It's a powerful move that requires only a few seconds to set up.

Strengths: "The Chosen One" is certainly a consistent winner. Jarrett went through a slump when he returned to the WWF a few years ago, then won the World tag team title with Owen Hart. But even that dry period wasn't that long a slump. Jarrett has placed in the top 50 of the *"PWI* 500" in every year of its existence.

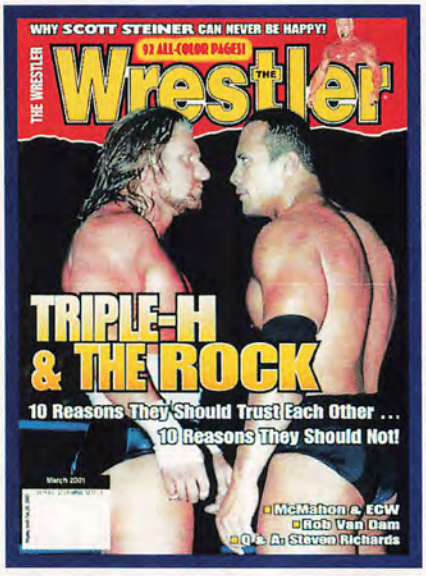
Weaknesses: He's cocky ... but not confident. Jarrett has fought long and hard to reach the level of success he's enjoying in WCW. However, Jarrett is smart enough to realize that he'll only be "The Chosen One" until the day he stops producing. If the people running the company believe he's no longer worthy of a top spot, they'll drop him quicker than you can say "Goldberg."

Defining Career Moment: Up until August 9, 1992, Jarrett was just another good independent wrestler with hopes of making it to the big dance. That night, however, Jarrett became so much more. He hopped the rail during a WWF card in Memphis and challenged Intercontinental champion Bret Hart to a title match. Though the title match never happened, Jarrett got the attention of WWF officials, who later started sending WWF talent to the USWA. He would soon make his federation debut as well.

Future: What does the former "Double-J" need to do to prove he deserves to be mentioned with the world's elite wrestlers? He ought to show what he can do in an extended series of matches with either Steiner or Goldberg. He can't come close to matching the power of either man, but he might just be crafty enough to surprise them. Jarrett's career position is still a bit precarious. He should take a tip from Triple-H and not let his bosses do his thinking for him.

this month in...

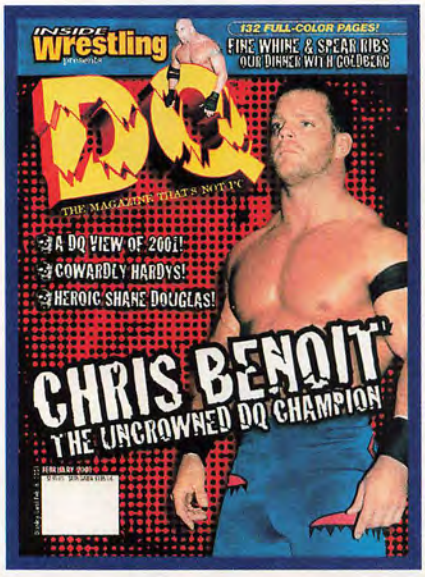
The Wrestler



You can't believe it and neither can we. **TRIPLE-H** and **THE ROCK** on the same side? Shaking hands? Working together? Is this good for the WWF? We'll give you 10 reasons why it is and 10 reasons why it *isn't!* ... Have you seen **SCOTT STEINER** look happy in, say, the last five years? From what we can tell (and what "Big Poppa Pump" tells us), happiness is an unattainable goal for him ... **ROB VAN DAM** may be the biggest star ECW has, but did you realize that a total of *12* men have now beaten him to the ECW World title?

All this—and much more!—
in the March 2001 issue of ***The Wrestler***

DQ



We're starting off our first issue of *DQ* with a bold statement: We're naming **CHRIS BENOIT** our uncrowned *DQ* champion! You think we're off-base? Well. we don't care! ... Want to know what's in store for the biggest stars in the business in 2001? We'll offer some forecasts that we just *know* will come true! A preview: **KURT ANGLE**, **SCOTT STEINER**, and **RHINO** will shine, while **THE ROCK**, **BILL GOLDBERG**, and **ROB VAN DAM** will fail miserably ... We'll also tell you why **THE HARDY BOYZ** are two of the world's biggest cowards!

All this—and much more!—
in the February 2001 issue of ***DQ***

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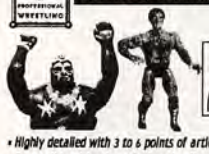

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Breakdown In Your House
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10th Series: Edge Blackman Road Dogg Billy Gunn
11th Series: Val Venis Godfather Al Snow Vince McMahon
12th Series: Big Show Undertaker #3 Mankind Boss Man Austin
13th Series: Droz D'Lo Brown Shane McMahon Hardcore Holly
14th Series: Matt Hardy Jeff Hardy The Rock Chris Jericho
OFFICIAL SUPERSLAM WRESTLING RING..... $25.00 set

WRESTLING FIGURE CLOTHING GEAR

Clothes made to fit your favorite 6 inch wrestling figures!

Referee Shirt, Yellow Security Jacket, White Paramedic Jacket, Stretchers, Event Staff Jacket,Chairs, Sweatshirts, Leather Jacket, Army Jacket, Football Jersey, Black T-Shirt, White T-Shirt, Dress Pants, Crowd Control Rail, Trash Can:

Mini Mexican Masks (red, black, or blue)
A) $3.00 each
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ECW 6 Inch Figures $10.00 each

Shane Douglas	Buh Buh Ray Dudley	Rob Van Dam
Justin Credible	Chris Candido	New Jack
Lance Storm	Sabu	D-Von Dudley
Tommy Dreamer	Taz	B. Mahoney
Axl Rotten	Rhino	Yoshihiro Tajiri
Jerry Lynn	Raven	Super Crazy
Steve Corino	Nova	Little Guido

ECW ACCESSORY PACK $8.00 each

WF HASBRO 4 INCH ACTION FIGURES

(1990 - 1994)

(all mint in package)

All Figures in This Section are $15.00 each.

Headshrinker Samu	Tatanka #1	Brutus Beefcake #1
Big Boss Man #1	Big Boss Man #2	Hacksaw Duggan #1
El Mystedor	I.R.S.	Hacksaw Duggan #2

Ultimate Warrior #2 (White)	$30.00 ea.	Ted Dibiase (in Green Outfit)	$20.00 ea.
Honky Tonk Man	$40.00 ea.	Roddy Piper	$35.00 ea.
Typhoon	$30.00 ea.	Earthquake	$30.00 ea.
Sgt. Slaughter	$30.00 ea.	Hulk Hogan #3 (with Hulksters)	$30.00 ea.
Randy Savage (King w/ Crown)	$30.00 ea.	Brutus Beefcake #2 (White & Black)	$30.00 ea.
Greg Valentine	$30.00 ea.	Jimmy Snuka	$30.00 ea.
Kamala	$25.00 ea.	Hulk Hogan (Gorilla Press)	$20.00 ea.
Jake the Snake Roberts	$20.00 ea.	Hulk Hogan (with Hulkster Hog)	$20.00 ea.

WWF HASBRO TAG TEAM 2 PACKS
WWF Tag Team 2 Packs (2 Figures in each set)
The Bushwackers #1 (Luke & Butch) ..... $20.00 set
The Rockers (Shawn & Marty) ..... $40.00 set

LIFE-SIZE STAND-UPS

Life-size Stand-ups are full-color and actual size $30.00 each

Choose from:

Kevin Nash	Shawn Michaels	
Scott Hall	Undertaker	Chyna
Goldberg	Steve Austin	The Rock

Note: These are only available to our United States customers. We cannot send these overseas to other countries due to size. For U.S. customers, must give street address (no P.O. boxes).

SUPERSIZE STUFFED HULK HOGAN DOLLS

These are Supersize Stuffed Hulk Hogan Dolls with a plush body with a detailed face. Hulk is wearing a "Python Power" bandana.

2 1/2 ft. Stuffed Hulk Hogan Doll ..... $25.00 ea.
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SPECIAL DEAL: Get Both Hulk Hogans for $70.00

WCW SLAM JAM - THE ORIGINAL WCW WRESTLING ALBUM

11 OFFICIAL THEME SONGS OF THE WCW STARS by Grand Theft Productions (1992)

Songs included are: "Don't Step to Ron"; "Man Called Sting" "Mr. Bang Bang"; "Master of the DOT"; "Freebird Forever" "Simply Ravishing"; "Johnny B Badd"; "The Natural" "The Dragon"; "He's Smokin"; "Steinerized" Factory sealed by Grand Theft Records (1992)

Compact Disc version is $15.00 Cassette Tape version is $12.00

VARIOUS WRESTLING BOOKS

THEATER IN A SQUARED CIRCLE
450 page book
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"500 TRIVIA QUESTIONS"
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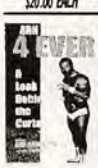
Arn Anderson 4 Ever Book



164 page book written by Arn Anderson with a foreword by Ric Flair. Story of his carrier from start to finish.

$20.00 each Or (2 for $35.00)

PHOTOS & POSTERS

$5.00 Each or (5 for $20.00)

Official 8x10 Full Color Glossy Photos photos are put in a plastic Sleeve for protection

Choose from:			
Undertaker	Jim Ross	Jerry "the King" Lawler	
Godfather	Sable	Headbangers	British Bulldog
Mankind	Kurt Angle	Al Snow	Shawn Michaels
Legion of Doom	Ahmed Johnson	Rikishi Phatu	Steve Austin
The Rock	Ken Shamrock	Triple H & Chyna	X-Pac
Edge	Val Venis	Kane (w/Undertaker)	Dude Love
Triple H	Jacqueline	D-Generation X	Shane McMahon
Tazz	Test (pose)	Big Show(w/Vince)	Road Dogg
Droz	Oddities	Marlena	Chyna (w/Rifle)
Steve Blackman	Gangrel	Mark Henry	Road Dogg
Stephanie	Hardy Boyz	Chris Jericho	Scotty Too Hotty
Acolytes	Tori	Grandmaster Sexay	Brood
Posse	Dudley Boyz	Miss Kitty	Mean Street
	Too Cool	Matt Hardy	Jeff Hardy

Full-Color 24X36 Posters

$10.00 each choose from

STEVE AUSTIN Belt	Faces of Foley	AUSTIN Bang
SABLE collage	DX logo	THE ROCK smell
AUSTIN Skull	ROCK collage	CHRIS JERICHO
DX collage	STONE COLD Snake	CHYNA
HARDY BOYS	RIKISHI PHATU	AUSTIN collage

6-FOOT TALL LIFE-SIZE FULL COLOR POSTERS

$20.00 each Choose from:

- STEVE AUSTIN
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- THE ROCK
- TRIPLE H

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WWF The Music Volume 3
Contains 15 Official Themes
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WWF Wrestling Album
1985 10 different songs includes "Real American"
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Contains 10 Songs
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Contains 15 Official Themes
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ECW EXTREME MUSIC

CD- $20.00 Each Cassette- $15.00 Each

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Choose from:				
Jericho	Ric Flair	Sting	DDP	Chris
Disco Inferno	Saturn	Kevin Nash	Goldberg	Lex Luger
Benoit	Eric Bischoff	Scott Hall	Bret Hart	Chris
4 Horsemen	Elizabeth	Savage	Nitro Girls	Booker T
David Flare	Hollywood Hogan	Hak	Midajah	Spice
Kanyon	Mike Awesome	Ms. Hancock	3 Count	Kronik
Jeff Jarrett	Kim-Bikini	Kim-Posed	Lance Storm	Franchise
Kwee Wee	Stevie Ray	Crowbar	Kidman	Daffney
Buff Bagwell	Paisley	Terry Willson-Action & Posed		
Goldberg	Nitro Girls	DDP	Rodman	

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Choose from: ($8.00 each or (any 2 for $15.00)

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Buff Bagwell	Nitro Girls	DDP	Rodman

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Steve Austin (Do Not Trust)	Ken Shamrock	Tori Pretty Face	DX (Green Logo)
Hardcore Holly	Mankind Smiley Face	Boss Man	Al Snow
Jeff Jarrett (Don't Piss Me Off)	Val Venis (Hello Ladies)	DX Suck It	Sable Bomb
Whoop Ass Ale	Kane Kiss My Ash	Kane (Razing Kane)	The Rock, Know Your Role
Mankind & Socko	X-Pac	British Bulldog	Headbangers
Undertaker Ministry	Big Show	J.O.B. Squad	Steve Austin Blood Rattle Snake
Steve Austin Take Down	Debra (Puppies)	Mr. Ass	Steve Austin Bottom Line
Steve Austin No Mercy	Godfather	Steve Austin 3 Skull	Steve Austin Oversized Skulls
The Rock People's Champ	Triple H "the Game"	The Rock Bull Logo	T&A with Trish
Edge & Christian	Tazz 13	Cactus Jack	Road Dogg Kickin
Kurt Angle "Its True"	Y2J Circle	Here Kitty Kitty	Men of Wrestling
The Rock "Just Bring It"	Kurt Angle "USA"	The Rock "Poontang Pie"	Too Cool "Graffitti"
Hardy Boyz "2 Xtreme"	Scotty 2 Hotty	Undertaker "Last Ride"	Chris Benoit "Crippler"
Steve Blackman "Pain"	Triple H "Hunter"	Steven Richards	Eddie Guerrero "Latino Heat"
American Badass (Undertaker)	Edge	Tazz "FTW"	"Save The Hos" Anti-Steven Richards
The Rock (Bring It)	Raw is Jericho	Edge & Christian (5 Second Pose)	

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STEVE AUSTIN HELL YEAH
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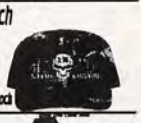
STONE COLD UNIVERSITY
D-GENERATION X
UNDERTAKER
The Rock



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Macho Man Madness T-Shirt
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Dungeon of Doom T-Shirt
Macho Man Signature T-Shirt
Public Enemy #69 Hockey Jersey
Sting Starburst T-Shirt (KIDS SIZES ONLY)
Public Enemy Cartoon T-Shirt
Bash at the Beach 1996 T-Shirt
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Fall Brawl 1998 Caged T-Shirt
WCW Motorsports Golf Shirt
Hollywood Hogan T-Shirt
Fall Brawl Rage in Cage 1997 T-Shirt
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Taz
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F..k the World
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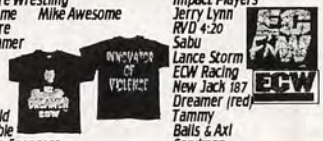
RVD 4:20
Sabu
Lance Storm
ECW Racing
New Jack 187
Dreamer (red)
Tammy
Balls & Axl
Sandman
Yoshihiro Tajari



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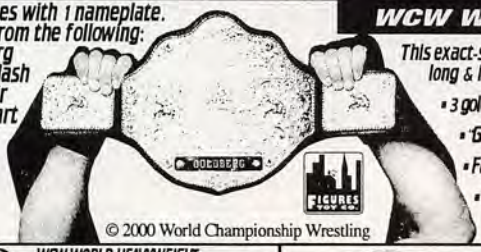
WCW World Heavyweight Championship Belt Replica

Belt Comes with 1 nameplate.
Choose from the following:
- Goldberg
- Kevin Nash
- Ric Flair
- Bret Hart
- Sting
- Hogan
- DDP
- Blank



This exact-scale replica of the WCW World Heavyweight Championship belt measures 4 feet 8 inches long & is made of simulated leather the exact thickness of the original. It features:
- 3 goldtone metal medallions cast from the original–the center medallion measures 12 inches tall!
- "Goldberg" gold metal nameplate is interchangeable for future use
- Fastened by 8 snaps on each side
- Medallions are ornamented by 22 faux ruby studs

OUR PRICE: $150.00 each

NOW YOU CAN OWN A DELUXE FULL-SIZE REPLICA OF THE WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT BELT!!!

© 2000 World Championship Wrestling

WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
NWO Red or Black VERSION
$150.00 EACH

$150.00 EACH
WCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA

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WCW Mini Belt Replica

$30.00 EACH

- Made from same material as full size replica
- Measures 12 inches long
- Center plate measures 3.5 inches high
- Use as a wristband or desktop display
- Choose from the following nameplates: Goldberg, Bret Hart, Sting, Nash, Flair, Hogan

WCW Kids Size Belt Replicas

A) WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
B) NWO KIDS VERSION (red or black)
C) U.S. Heavyweight
D) Cruiserweight
E) Tag Team
F) Television

$75.00 EACH

WCW WORLD TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
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WCW U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA
$150.00 EACH

WCW HARDCORE CHAMPIONSHIP BELT REPLICA

$150.00 EACH

WWF Toy Belts

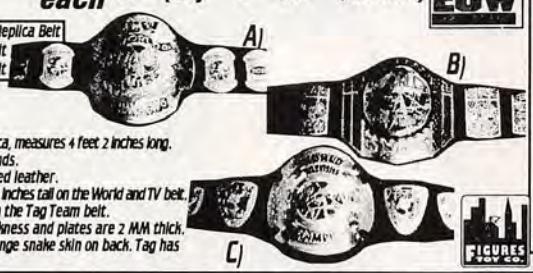
World Championship
INTERCONTINENTAL

These are championship belts that are goldtone plastic with a soft belt strap (2000) $19.00 each One Size Fits All

Officially Licensed ECW Championship Replica Belts

$175.00 each or (any 2 for $300.00)

A) ECW World Heavyweight Replica Belt
B) ECW Tag Team Replica Belt
C) ECW Television Replica Belt



Each belt is an exact scale replica, measures 4 feet 2 inches long.
Weighs approximately 4 pounds.
The strap is made of simulated leather.
Center medallion measures 10.5 inches tall on the World and TV belt. It measures 9.5 inches tall on the Tag Team belt.
Belt and strap are exact thickness and plates are 2 MM thick.
World Belt has simulated orange snake skin on back. Tag has simulated purple snake skin

ECW Kids Size Belt Replica

$80.00 each
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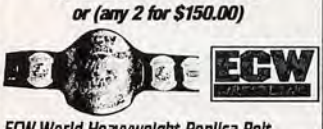

ECW World Heavyweight Replica Belt
ECW Tag Team Replica Belt
ECW Television Replica Belt

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Jakks Kids Toy Belts

$15.00 each
The Rock Belt
Undertaker Belt
Stone Cold Skull Belt
Stone Cold Venom Belt
Tag Team Championship
Intercontinental Championship
World Heavyweight Championship

NWA Heavyweight Championship Replica

NEW

$200.00 each

This is an exact scale replica, weighs approximately 4 pounds. The strap is made of simulated leather, it is dresses with 4 strap medallions and one center medallion. Belt and strap are exact thickness and plates are 2 MM thick. This belt has a zebra design on the back of the belt stap.

©2000 National Wrestling Alliance

ECW Mini Belt Replica

$30.00 EACH

- Measures 12 inches long
- Made from same material as full size replica
- Center plate measures 3.5 inches high
- Use as a wristband or desktop display

WCW & ECW Toy Belts

Full Size Toy Belts
$25.00 EACH

Adult Size ECW World Heavyweight Toy Belt
Adult Size WCW World Heavyweight Toy Belt
Adult Size WCW U.S. Heavyweight Toy Belt

Each full size belt fits up to a 48 inch waist

Kid Size Toy Belts

$20.00 EACH

Each kid size belt fits up to a 34 inch waist

Kid Size ECW World Heavyweight Toy Belt
Kid Size ECW Tag Team Championship Toy Belt
Kid Size ECW Television Championship Toy Belt
Kid Size WCW Cruiserweight Toy Belt
Kid Size WCW Television Championship Toy Belt
Kid Size WCW World Heavyweight Toy Belt
Kid Size WCW U.S. Heavyweight Toy Belt
Kid Size WCW Tag Team Championship Toy Belt

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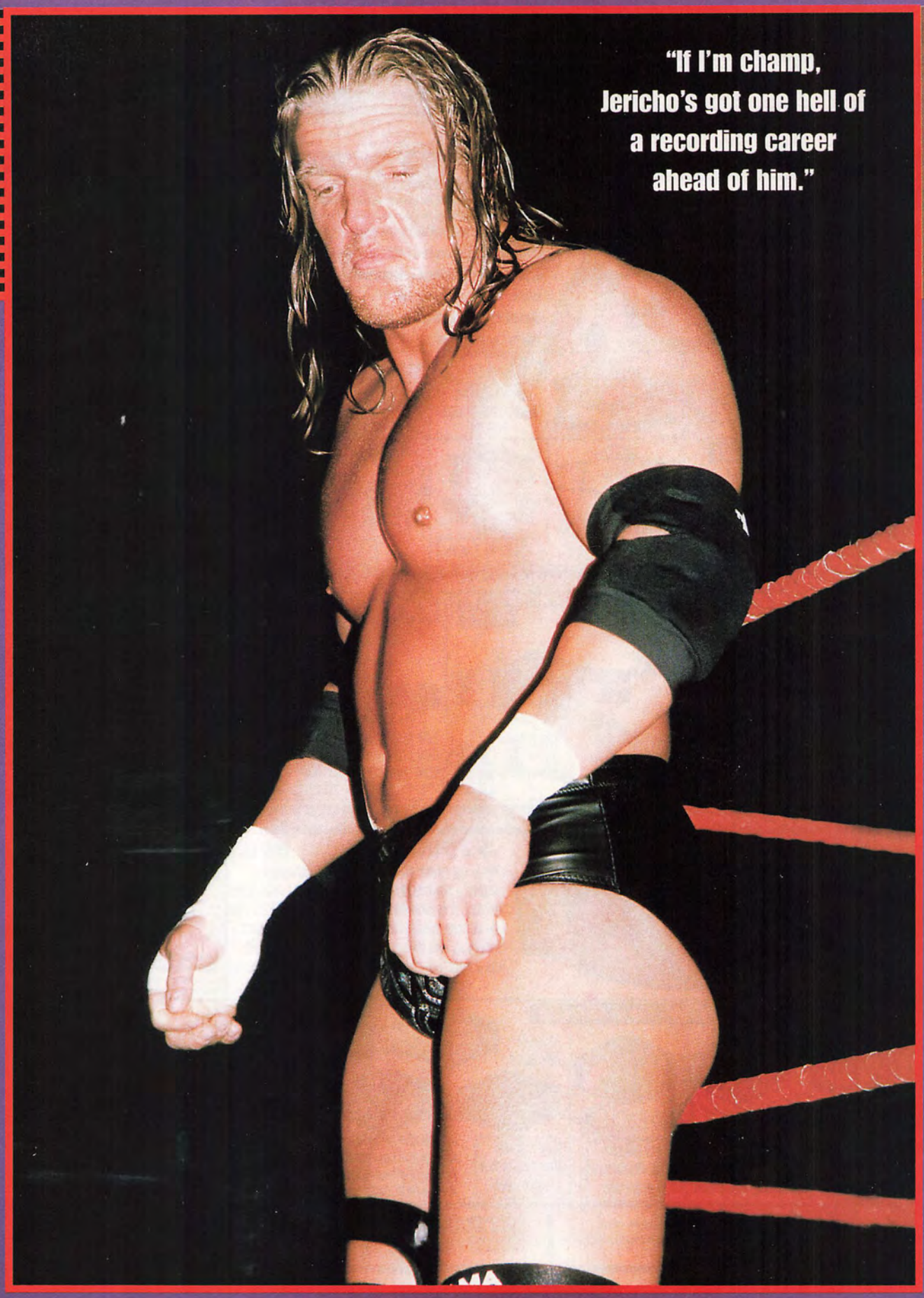

"If I'm champ,
Jericho's got one hell of
a recording career
ahead of him."

12 Questions

You're at the airport. You see your favorite wrestler relaxing in one of the terminals. You rush up to him or her as questions fill your excited mind. There are certain things you just *have* to know about this person. Well, these are the 12 questions you'd *never* think of asking

WITH TRIPLE-H

Terra Ryzing ... why didn't the name stick?

It was the greatest name ever, I just think people weren't ready for that yet. Killer Kowalski was a visionary.

Why is there always a camera around when you and Steph argue?

I like to document all arguments because of possible legal action by the McMahon family.

What's the stupidest thing that a fan has ever asked you to do?

I had a guy ask to shake my hand at a urinal, and I also signed a baby's diaper.

What's the one thing that can always make you lose your composure during a match?

The sight of a certain part of Al Snow's anatomy falling out during a suplex, which actually happened.

What does Chris Jericho have a better chance at, becoming WWF World champion or seeing a Fozzy Ozbourne album go platinum?

If I'm champ, Jericho's got one hell of a recording career ahead of him.

Ever look at Mick Foley and think, *How the hell did he become an icon?*

Every day, but then I talk to him and it's all clear.

Who in the WWF enjoys being on the receiving end of the stink face?

Pat Patterson.

Where do you think you'd be if you had never left WCW?

A mental institution and completely bald, because I would have pulled out all of my hair.

What was your reaction the first time you saw an action figure of yourself?

That's one of the things that everybody in the business freaks out over. When you see your first action figure, you know you've made it.

If you weren't you, what do you think you'd think about yourself upon meeting yourself for the first time?

Depending on the time of the day, either he's not as big a jerk as he seems to be on TV, or he is as big a jerk as he seems to be on TV.

You have a choice between Regis Philbin, Janet Reno, and Jim Hellwig (The Ultimate Warrior) to live with on a deserted island for the rest of your life. Which one would you pick and why?

Jim Hellwig, because I could use his fried bale of hay hair to start a signal fire and get rescued. I could also use his buck teeth to chop firewood.

You have a hammer, a midget, and a roulette wheel. What are your plans for the evening?

I'd write the names of all the midget's body parts on the roulette wheel and spin the wheel. Whatever body part the wheel stopped on, I'd try to hit the midget there with a hammer toss. That kind of fun could last for hours. □

For The Guys . . .

TORRIE WILSON

BEST FEATURE ... Her smile (beautiful teeth!)

WHAT GUY WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HER DRESSED UP AS ... Dorothy from *The Wizard Of Oz*

FACE IT, MEN CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ... The slow, teasing, seductive way she walks to and around the ring

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT ... Foul-mouthed guy she hangs out with all the time

SHE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART ... Mary in *There's Something About Mary*

IF SHE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HER SUCCEEDING AS ... The co-host of *Live With Regis And Torrie*

ONE THING SHE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS ... Her taste in dresses. Ditch the long ones, please!

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ... An accomplished fitness model, Torrie once won the Miss Galaxy Florida competition

OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE ... "Torrie, I dropped my sign. Can you bend over and get it for me!"

For The Ladies . . .

CHRISTIAN

BEST FEATURE ... His smile

WHAT WOMAN WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HIM DRESSED IN ... Tight black leather pants

FACE IT, LADIES CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIS ... Long blond hair. We've heard they love to run their fingers through it

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT ... Twisted sense of humor

HE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART ... Jeff Spicoli (Sean Penn's character) in *Fast Times At Ridgemont High*

IF HE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HIM SUCCEEDING AS ... A mall rat

ONE THING HE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS ... His taste in eyewear. Those sunglasses are awful!

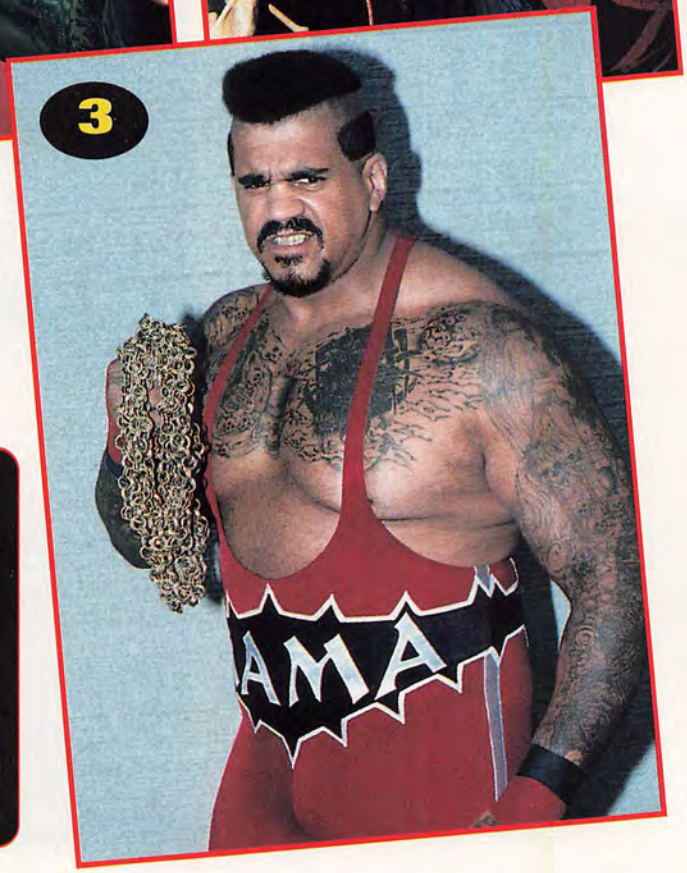
LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ... Christian was once part of a clique called Thug Life. The other members were Sexton Hardcastle (Edge), Rhino, and Joe E. Legend (Just Joe)

OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE ... "You think Christian watches *Sweet Valley High* like every week?"

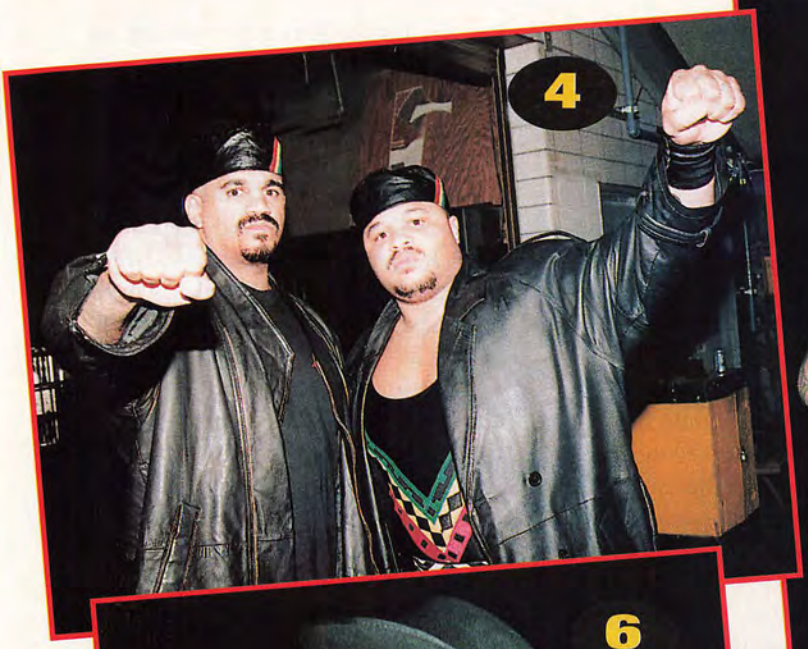
Through the Years

It's amazing how drastically certain superstars change their looks over the years. A change in hair color or hairstyle here, a new ring outfit there, a few more tattoos here *and* there, or the mother of all changes ... the total gimmick overhaul. Every month, *PWI* will show you just how much one of your favorites has transformed himself. Yeah, it really is the same guy in all these photos!

THE GOODFATHER FILES



1–Everyone meet The Soultaker (1989)
2–Papa Shango was flat-out bizarre! (1993)
3–Kama was "The Supreme Fighting Machine" (1995)
4–Nation of Domination teammates Kama Mustafa and D-Lo (1997)
5–Looking happy to be part of the NOD (1998)
6–Gettin' that Godfather look down! (1998)
7–There he is—everyone's favorite pimp daddy! (1999)
8–Hard to get used to this *Goodfather* gimmick (2000)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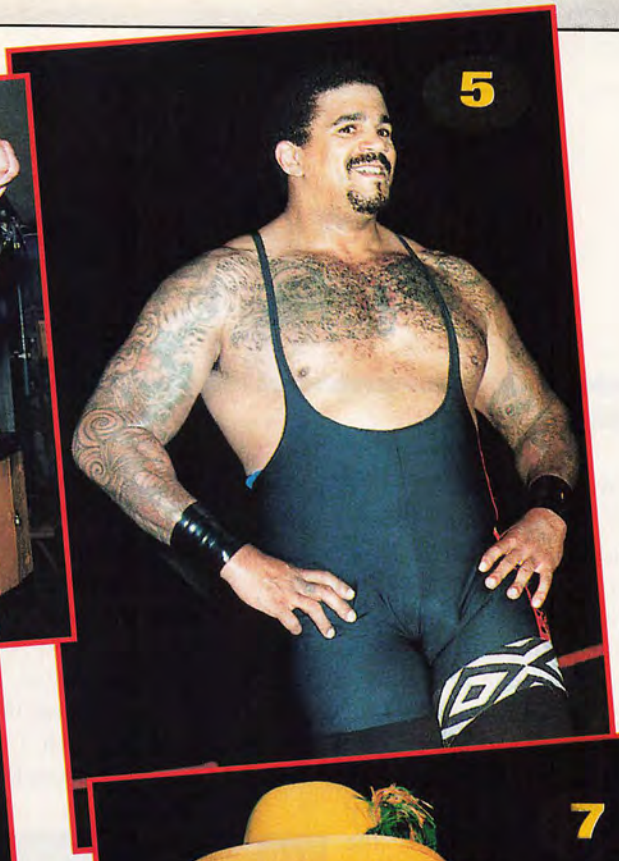
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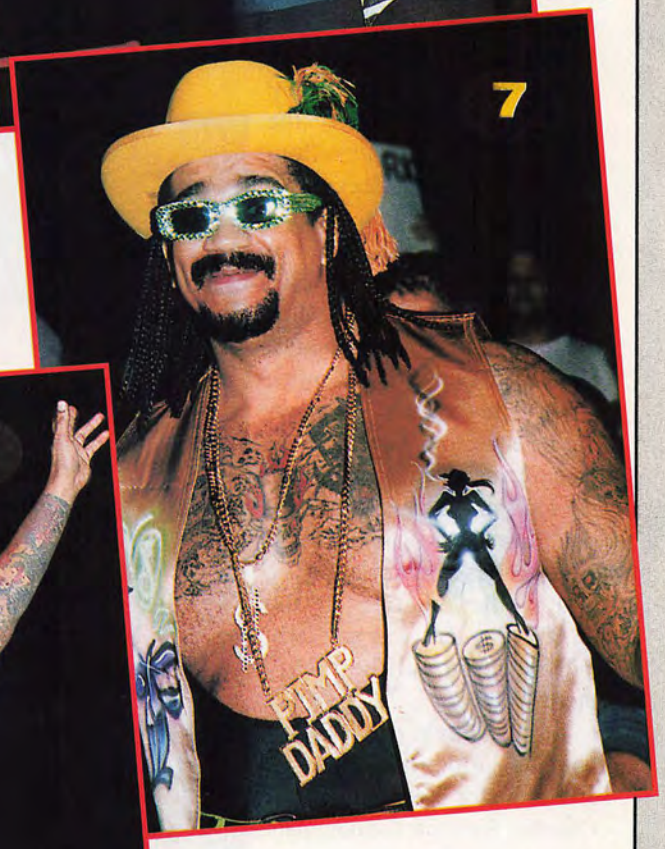

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8

the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

IMAGINE SITTING FRONT row for the first match between **Bill Goldberg** and **The Rock**—that should give you an idea of how it felt in the Tokyo Dome when IWGP heavyweight champ **Kensuke Sasaki**, representing his home promotion of New Japan Pro Wrestling, faced off against All-Japan Pro Wrestling superstar **Toshiaki Kawada**. The historic bout, which was not for the IWGP championship, packed the Tokyo Dome beyond sellout capacity in early-October.

Before the October show, the two companies had not cooperated in nearly a decade, instead spending the interceding years vying for the position of top wrestling promotion in the Orient. But they are now working together to book a series of dream matches by matching up the top stars from each promotion. Kawada vs. Sasaki was the first of these dream matches, and if the reaction of the 60,000-plus fans was any indication, there will be plenty more to come.

Sasaki fought valiantly for personal pride, his company, and to honor his mentor, **Riki Choshu**. Kawada, the dominant figure in All-Japan since the exit of **Mitsuharu Misawa**, **Kenta Kobashi**, and the rest, was brutal in his attacks, relying heavily on kicks. Sasaki tried everything from punches and lariats to his signature Northern Lights bomb, but Kawada had a counter for every move. Kawada used his signature submission hold, the stretch plum, but the younger Sasaki would not relent. Finally, a series of kicks to the face sent Sasaki crashing to the canvas, and Kawada subsequently scored the pin. For the moment, All-Japan had beaten New Japan.

After the match, a defeated Sasaki faced the Japanese media and delivered a heartfelt speech. Citing his belief that a champion should not be beaten and that his loss to Kawada would bring shame to the IWGP heavyweight title, Sasaki relinquished the championship. New Japan has since organized a tournament to fill the vacant title, and so far, **Keiji Muto**, **Masa Chono**, **Manabu Nakanishi**, and others have stepped forward. In light of the Dome show, NJPW President **Tatsumi Fujinami** has made overtures to bring Kawada into the tournament as well.

Dramatic as that is, bear in mind the current situation in All-Japan. At press time, a tournament to crown a new Triple Crown champion was underway, as the titles had been left vacant when Kenta Kobashi left the company. Kawada was the odds-on favorite to come out with the belts. If he were to win, Kawada would be in a position that no other Japanese wrestler has ever been in. If Kawada wins the NJPW tournament, he could simultaneously hold the IWGP heavyweight and All-Japan Triple Crown titles, the two top championships in the country. This would be akin to a single wrestler holding the WCW and WWF world heavyweight belts at the same time.

Kensuke Sasaki, who had held New Japan's IWGP heavyweight title since January 2000, relinquished the belt after losing a non-title match to All-Japan's Toshiaki Kawada. A tournament to crown a new champion will be held.

While declining business for both New Japan and All-Japan has been a serious issue over the last year, the new interest in the companies' partnership is just what both have been looking for.

Taking the cue from the big boys, two smaller companies are joining forces in similar fashion. Michinoku Pro, run by **The Great Sasuke**, and Misawa's NOAH will be enjoying a talent exchange as well. A recent Michinoku show saw Sasuke defend his NWA middleweight title successfully against NOAH regular **Naomichi Marafuji**.

FMW fans were disappointed to hear about **Hayabusa's** impending surgery. The high-flyer needs an operation on both of his elbows, surgery that will require a layoff of six months.

Soo da, sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

By Mike Spillane

A FAMILY FEUD ended in October as brothers **Fobia** and **Psicosis** collided in a hair vs. hair match. The culmination of feuds in Mexico is usually marked by a stipulation match in which both contenders wager a prized possession. Typically, a masked wrestler will offer up his hood, while wrestlers who compete without masks usually put up their hair.

Only when a superstar feels there is no other way to put an end to a heated rivalry will he put his hair or mask on the line in a match with his most hated rival. The loss of a mask almost always marks a turning point in the career of a Mexican wrestler and will often send a wrestler's career into a downward spiral.

Both Fobia and Psicosis started their Lucha Libre careers under masks, though both have since lost those masks. Since his return from WCW, Psicosis, who goes by the name **Nicho El Millonario** in Mexico to avoid being confused with AAA's impostor Psicosis, and his younger brother have met in a number of heated matches. Prior to the hair vs. hair showdown, they had last fought in a ladder match that featured a lot of interference on behalf of both men.

Left with no other resort, the brothers clashed in a hair vs. hair match, and Fobia wound up losing the hard-fought bout and his scalp to the more experienced Nicho.

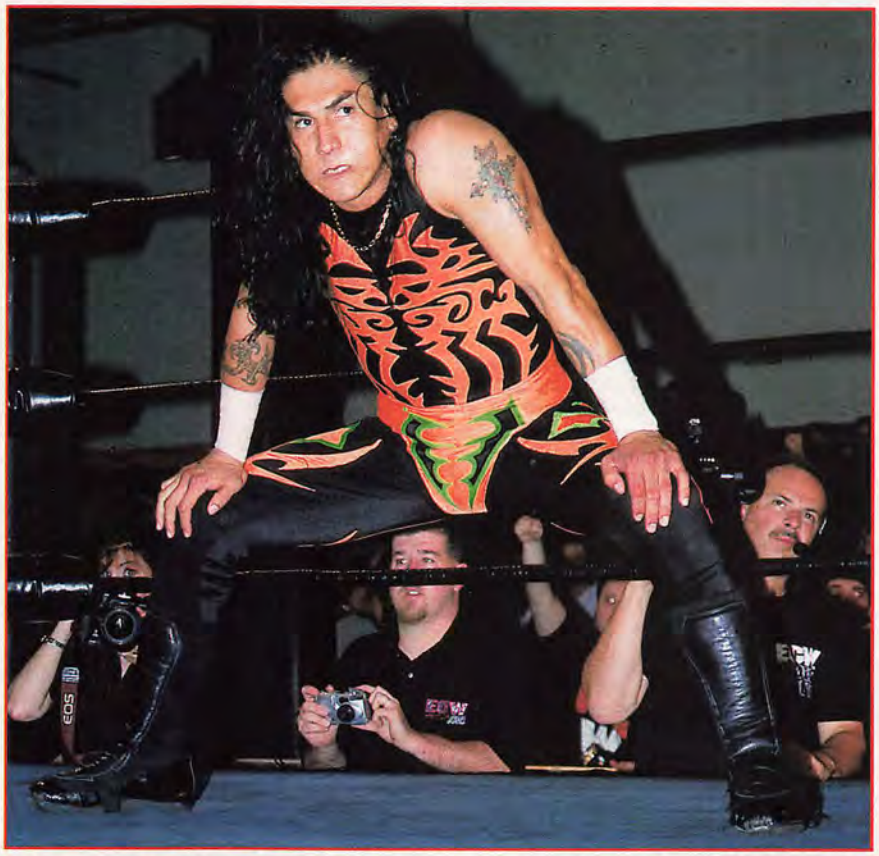
Another famous pair of unmasked Luchadores were getting ready for a hair vs. hair showdown as this magazine to press. Former ECW TV champion **Super Crazy**, who had been wrestling in Mexico full-time after experiencing work visa problems in the U.S. earlier in the year, signed for a match with his arch-rival, **Venum Black**. Crazy enters the match as the underdog, having recently lost his UWA welterweight title to **Oriental**.

Rookie sensation **Ricky Marvin** recently saved his hair by defeating **El Coreano** in a feud-ending hair match. Referee **Chino**, who tends to favor the *rudos,* started out as the official for the match, but to the relief of the fans, he was replaced by alternate referee **Maya**, so the match continued without biased calls. Marvin is just back from his first tour with Michinoku Pro in Japan.

Tarzan Boy has abandoned his *technico* ways and joined forces with **Shocker** and **Scorpio Jr.** in an EMLL *rudo* group called **Los Guapos**. The turn came at a bad time for **Negro Casas**, who had asked Tarzan Boy to second him for a match with **El Hijo del Santo**. Santo, who had **Blue Panther** in his corner, held the *Leyenda de Plata* Trophy, a special distinction honoring the original Santo, Mexico's most famous wrestler. Casas won the right to face Santo in his EMLL return match by defeating **Dr. Wagner Jr.** at the 67th anniversary show for the promotion in the famed Arena Mexico.

The highly anticipated match between Santo and Casas ended with Casas using his trademark pinning combination, La Magistral cradle, for the win. And though Casas defeated his longtime rival for the trophy, the significance of the *Leyenda de Plata* ensures that the two will clash again in the near future, and that Santo will not rest until the trophy is back in his possession again.

In the aftermath of this historic bout, Los Guapos, with new recruit Tarzan Boy, attacked Casas, and Santo, with fellow *technico* Blue Panther, helped Casas fight them off and send the *rudos* packing. □



Psicosis (a.k.a. Nicho El Millonario) has been very busy in his native Mexico lately. He recently won a key hair vs. hair match—against his very own brother.

arena reports

We encourage promoters and fans to send results to: "Arena Reports," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Fax results to (215) 540-0146. E-mail results to PWIQueen@aol.com.

SPOTLIGHT CARD OF THE MONTH

ST. LOUIS, MO—WWF at the Savvis Center: **Too Cool** beat **Lo-Down** ... **William Regal** defeated **Crash** ... **Bull Buchanan** & **The Goodfather** beat **The Acolytes** ... **Billy Gunn** defeated Intercontinental champion **Eddie Guerrero** by disqualification ... **Edge, Christian,** & **Jacquelyn** beat **The Hardy Boyz** & **Lita** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** defeated **Val Venis** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **Test** & **Albert** in a tables match ... **The Rock** & **Triple-H** defeated **Kurt Angle** & **Chris Benoit**.
(10-14-00)

—"Spotlight" photos by James McAfee

UNITED STATES

ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK—Arkansas Mountain Wrestling at the Convention Center: **Greg Young** beat **Ricky Sanchez** by disqualification ... **Petey Fountaine** beat **Heath Trenchcoat** ... **Joey Corman** beat **J.P. Brutal** by disqualification ... **Bubba Monroe** beat **Mr. Wrestling III** ... **Mark Valiant** beat **Terry Bryant** ... **The New Breed** beat **The Backwoods Brawlers**.
(10-03-00)

—Brett Wolfe

CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO—WWF at the San Diego Sports Arena: **The Goodfather** & **Bull Buchanan** beat **Too Cool** ... **Midian** defeated **The Brooklyn Brawler** ... **Jerry Lawler** beat **Raven** ... European champion **Al Snow** defeated **Perry Saturn** ... **Triple-H** & **Rikishi** beat **Kurt Angle** & **Kane** ... **The Dupp Brothers** defeated **Rodney** & **Pete Gas** ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Billy Gunn** ... **The Dudley Boyz** defeated **Test** & **Albert** in a tables match.
(10-08-00)

—Will Welsh

CONNECTICUT

WETHERSFIELD—New England Championship Wrestling at The Fun Zone: **Johnny Royal** beat **The Great Pumpkin** ... **Zachary Springate III** beat **Matt Patterson** ... **Alex Arion** beat **Kurt Adonis** ... **Jason Knight** beat **Wagner Brown** ... **Johnny Idol** & **Mike Steele** beat **Dan Hawk** & **Derik Destiny** ... **Fred Curry Jr.** and **Maverick Wild** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... Heavyweight champion **Mike Hollow** beat **Bob Evans**.
(10-14-00)

—Rich Palladino

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON—East Coast Wrestling Association at St. Matthew's Parish Hall: **Thunder** pinned **Mr. Ooh La La** ... **Reckless Youth** pinned **Scoot Andrews** ... Mid-Atlantic champion **Glen Osbourne** wrestled to double-countout with **Patch** ... **Brute Force** wrestled to a no-contest with **Felipe the Pool Boy** & **Benny Stolzfus** ... **Christopher Daniels** and **Steve Bradley** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Jay** & **Mark Briscoe** defeated **Johnny Maxx** & **Vince Goodnite**, **Eddie Valentine** & **Mozart Fontaine**, and **Glen Osbourne** & **Patch** in a four-way match ... **Cheetah Master, J.J. The Ring Crew Guy**, & **Ty Street** defeated **Inferno**, **Charlie Haas**, & **Russ Haas** in a steel cage match.
(10-21-00)

—Jeff Amdur

Scotty Too Hotty and Grandmaster Sexay hoist Chaz into the air en route to taking this match away from Lo-Down. Chaz and D-Lo Brown have had trouble sustaining a winning streak.

FLORIDA

TAMPA—NWA Florida's "Oktoberslam" at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: **Sweeter Brown Sugar** won a seven-man battle royal ... **Lex Lovett** beat NWA Florida junior heavyweight champion **Pepe Prado** and **Buck Q** by disqualification in a three-way match ... **Cyborg** defeated **Frankie Rose** ... **B. Brian Blair** defeated **Al Greene** in a lumberjack match ... NWA Florida heavyweight champion **Adam Windsor** pinned **Brent Cameron Dail** ... **"Classy" Chris Nelson** & **Big Vito DeNucci** wrestled to a no-contest with **Barry Windham** & **Fidel Sierra** ... NWA heavyweight champion **Mike Rapada** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Sabu**.
(10-17-00)

—Richard Haynes

GEORGIA

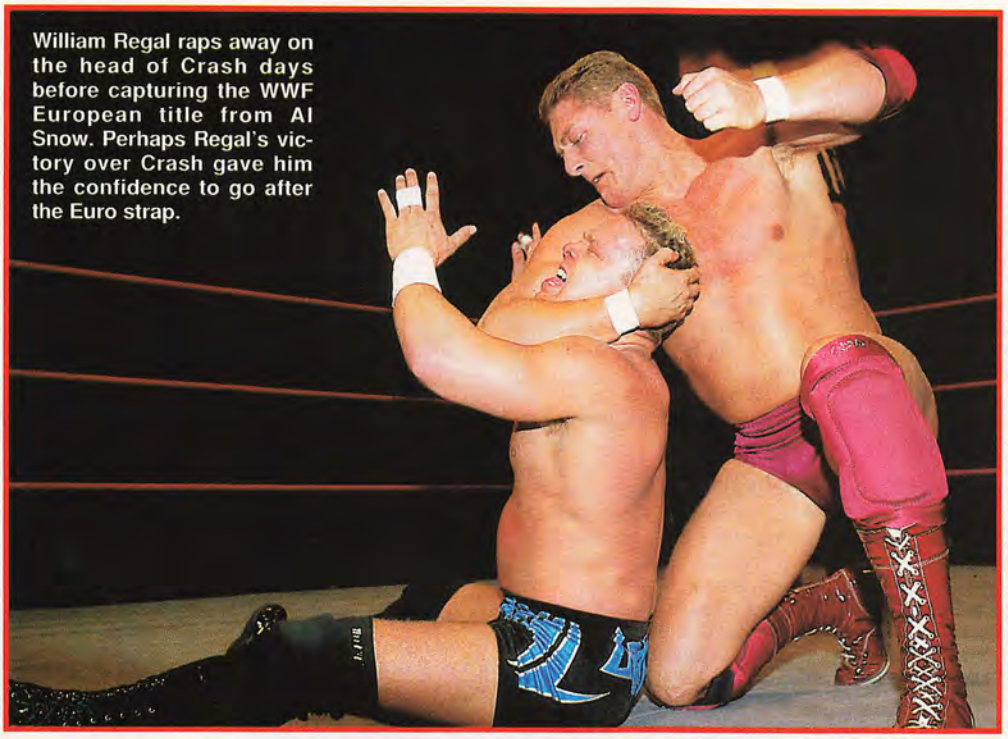
DALTON—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Roger Foster** & **Ben Thrasher** beat **Toy Dotson** & **John Hazard** by disqualification ... **Just Bruce** pinned **Blackie Lawless** ... **Bobby Hayes** beat **Johnny Quaz** ... **Big Wood** & **Nasty Critter** defeated **Jimmy Sharpe** & **Damon Taz** ... **Johnny Blayze** & **Big Daddy Crawley** beat **Rush** & **Iron Man** ... **Ben Thrasher** defeated **Tank Norton**.
(10-06-00)

—David Pierce

INDIANA

CONNERSVILLE—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at Expo Hall: **Itch Coma Weider** defeated **Shawn Cook** ... **Johnnie Walker** pinned **Cousin Otter** ... **Guy Lombardo** defeated **The Executioner** ... **Flame** defeated ladies champion **Angelfire** by countout ... **Johnny Eagle** defeated **Rob Ramer** ... **E.Z. Cruz** pinned **Cpl. Ken Burns** ... **Don Basher** and **Uncle Ernie** wrestled to a double-countout.
(10-14-00)

—Randy Klemme



William Regal raps away on the head of Crash days before capturing the WWF European title from Al Snow. Perhaps Regal's victory over Crash gave him the confidence to go after the Euro strap.

Galmen beat **Kevin Dark** and **Viper** in a three-way hardcore match ... **Bruiser** & **Cyrus** (not of ECW fame) beat **Mace** & **Brangus** to win the tag team title.
(10-09-00)

—Nicholas Davis

MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER—Yankee Pro Wrestling at the Fall River P.A.L.: **Kid Krazy** defeated **Shawn Candido** ... **The Portuguese Stallion** & **Don Juan DeSanto** beat **Suicidal Silva** & **Trent McNeely** ... **Mike Steele** & **"Punisher" Don Vega** wrestled to a double-countout with **Johnny Angel** & **Kurt Daniels** ... **Mike Paiva** & **The Highlight Kid** defeated **Terry Thomas** & **Alex Payneto** for the tag team title ... **Rick Fuller** beat **Dr. Heresy** ... **Gino Giovanni** defeated **Stryker** to win the interstate title ... **Andy Jaxx** beat **Brickhouse Baker** ... **Mike Foster** defeated **Iron Fist** ... **The Hott Boyz, Outkast,** & **Blade** beat **Tony Soprano, Adam Grunge, The Unknown,** & **Dan Strikes.**
(10-06-00)

—Steven Fallon

MARION—Extreme Wrestling Federation at the EWF Arena: **Hurricane** beat a midget dressed up as **Dusty Bottoms** ... **Eden** & **Jack Hammer** beat **Phoenix** & **Bob** ... **Gutter** beat **Hardcore Superstar** ... **Grizzly** beat **Anarchy** ... **Eden** beat **El Lunitico** and **Johnny Law** in a three-way hardcore match ... **Phoenix** beat **Gutter** in a ladder match to win the lightweight title ... **Jack Hammer** beat **Curtis Hughes.**
(10-14-00)

—Steve Drew

a "Brawl For The Belt" to win the heavyweight title.
(10-14-00)

—Travis Lee Reynolds

LOUISIANA

SHREVEPORT—American Championship Wrestling at the Rockin' Rodeo: **Big John Murder** beat **Joey Corman** ... **The New Age Dogg** beat **Pendragon** by disqualification ... **Gil Gracie** beat **Samir** ... **Big Daddy O'Shea** beat **Blake Wiggins** by disqualification ... **James**

MICHIGAN

YPSILANTI—ECW at the EMU Convocation Center: **Michael Shane** beat **Oz** ... **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** defeated **Chris Krueger** & **Phoenix** ... **Steve Corino** beat **Redd Dogg** ... **Kid Kash, Danny Doring,** & **Roadkill** defeated **Simon Diamond, E.Z. Money,** & **Julio Dinero** ... **Mahoney** beat **Chris Hamrick** ... **New Jack, Mahoney,** & **Chilly Willy** defeated **Chris Hamrick, Prodigy,** & **The Musketeer** ... World champ **Jerry Lynn** beat **C.W. Anderson**

KENTUCKY

CAMPBELLSVILLE—UCW at the National Guard Armory: **J.D. Thunder** beat **Alcatraz** by disqualification ... **Bill Lewis** defeated **Zac Hickerson** ... **J.D. Thunder, Adam,** & **Aaron Rainwater** beat **Hitman Louie, Krazy Klay,** & **Troy Dogg** ... **The Bully** beat **Doug Vines** to win the heavyweight title ... **The Beef** defeated **Terry England** in a last-man-standing match.
(10-21-00)

—Dutch Krewda

SHELBYVILLE—Bad 2 The Bone Wrestling at the Shelby County Fairgrounds: **Bull Pain** beat **Low Rider** ... **Josh Garrett** defeated **The Regulator** ... **Bio-Hazard** defeated **T.J. Lightnin** to win the lightweight title ... **Steve Marino** pinned **Psycho-Delic** ... **Peter B. Kennedy** defeated **Billy Black** and **Maxx Mizery** in a three-way match to win the hardcore title ... **The Regulator** won

Bull Buchanan and The Goodfather drop Bradshaw with a pair of stiff elbows. Those in attendance sat stunned as they watched RTC upset The Acolytes.

... **The Sandman** & **Mikey Whipwreck** defeated **Justin Credible** & **Chris Chetti** ... TV champ **Rhino** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri**.
(10-21-00)

—Dan Murphy

BATTLE CREEK—ECW at Kellogg Arena: **Redd Dogg** beat **Michael Shane** ... World champion **Jerry Lynn** beat **Danny Daniels** ... **Simon Diamond** defeated **Nova** ... **Kid Kash** beat **E.Z. Money** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** & **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** ... **Steve Corino** beat **C.W. Anderson** ... **Spike Dudley** defeated **Chris Hamrick** ... **Mahoney** & **Chilly Willy** beat **Prodigy** & **The Musketeer** ... **Steve Corino** & **New Jack** defeated **Justin Credible** & **Rhino**.
(10-20-00)

—Kevin Mitchell

GRAND RAPIDS—WWF at the Van Andel Arena: **K-Krush** beat **Joey Abs** ... **Midian** defeated **Gangrel** ... **Val Venis** beat **Crash** ... **Bull Buchanan** & **The Goodfather** defeated **The Acolytes** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **Test** & **Albert** in a tables match ... **The Dupp Brothers** defeated **Rodney** & **Pete Gas** ... **Billy Gunn** beat Intercontinental champion **Eddie Guerrero** by disqualification ... **Kane** defeated **Road Dogg** ... **Triple-H** beat **Kurt Angle**.
(10-15-00)

—Kevin Mitchell

ALMA—IAW at the High School: **Nasty Nick** beat **Ronnie Vegas** ... **Shadow** beat **Dr. Love** ... **K.C. Thunder** defeated **Pastor Pain** ... **The Ripper** defeated **Deputy Dog** ... Tag team champions **D-2000** beat **Andy Chene** & **Bobo Brazil Jr.** ... Heavyweight champion **Brian "The Crippler" Costello** beat **George "The Animal" Steele** by disqualification.
(10-14-00)

—Larry LaCluyse

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—WCW Halloween Havoc pay-per-view at the MGM Grand: World tag team champions **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** beat **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Billy Kidman** and **Boogie Knights** in a three-way match ... Hardcore champion **Reno** defeated **Sgt. A-Wall** ... **Lt. Loco** & **Cpl. Cajun** beat **The Perfect Event** ... **Tygress** & **Konnan** defeated **Shane Douglas** & **Torrie Wilson** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **David Flair** in a DNA match ... **Mike Sanders** defeated **Ernest "The Cat" Miller** in a three-round boxing match to win the commissionership of WCW ... **Mike Awesome** beat **Vampiro** ... **Gen. Rection** beat U.S champion **Lance Storm** and **Jim Duggan** in a handicap match to win the title ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Sting** ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Scott Steiner** by disqualification ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Kronic**.
(10-29-00)

—Dave Lenker

NEW JERSEY

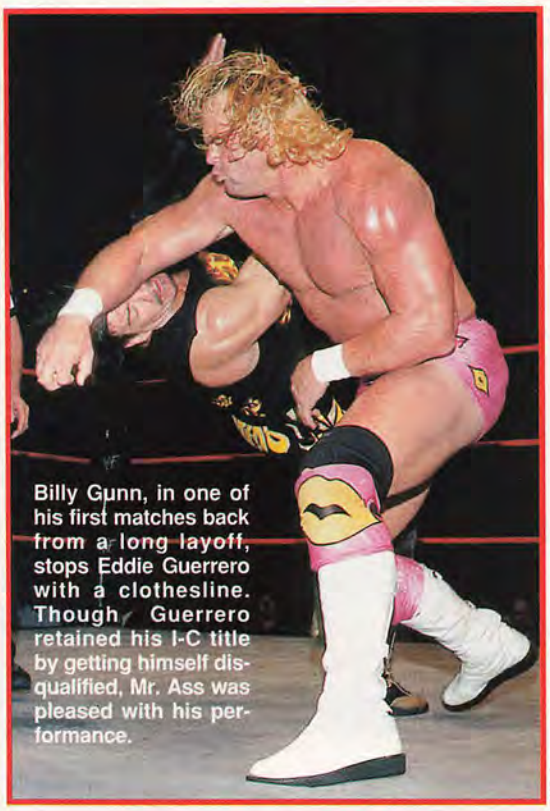
EAST RUTHERFORD—Jersey Championship Wrestling at Becton Regional High School: **Johnny "Big Bang" Thundar** defeated **Don Montoya** ... **Dave Greco** beat **Billy Reil** and **Tommy Suede** in a three-way match ... **Ace Darling** & **Inferno Kid** defeated **Moondogs 2000** ... Tag team champions **The Hit Squad** defeated **The Wise Guys** ... **Felix Ragozzino** defeated **Andrew Anderson** ... **Charlie** & **Russ Haas** beat **Tommy Rich** & **Doug Gilbert** ... **Masked Superstar** defeated **Ricky Murdoch** ... **Kingdom James** pinned **Flash Wheeler** ... **Reckless Youth** defeated **Low-Ki**.
(10-20-00)

—Dominick Valenti

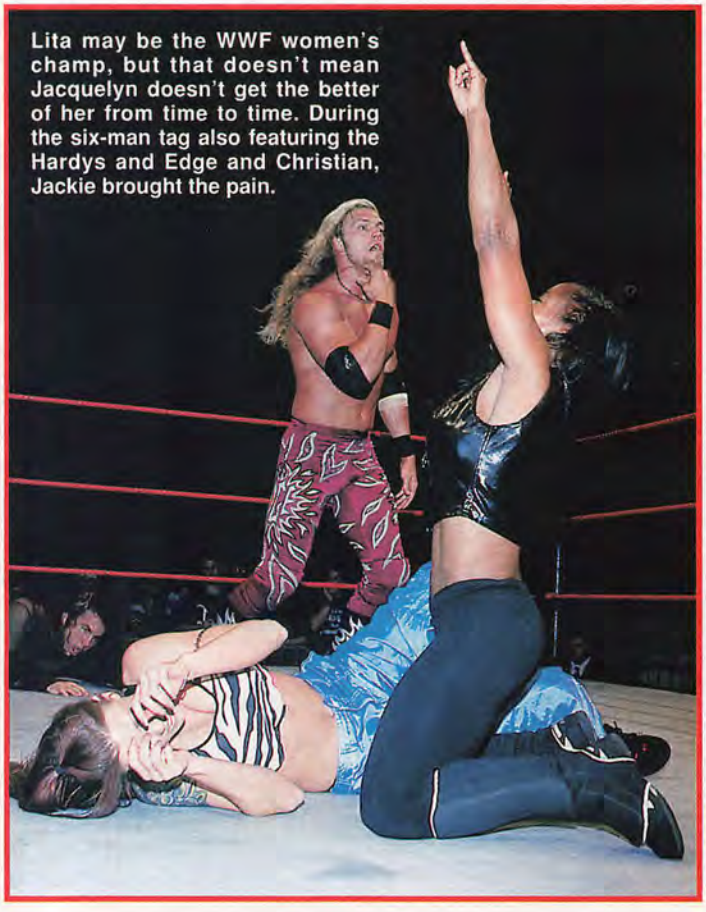
NEW YORK

ALBANY—WWF No Mercy pay-per-view at the Pepsi Center: **The Dudley Boyz** won a tag team tables invitational match ... **Chris Jericho** beat **X-Pac** in a steel cage match ... **Val Venis** & **Steven Richards** defeated **Chyna** & **Billy Gunn** ... **Steve Austin** and **Rikishi** wrestled to a no-contest in a no-disqualification match ... European champion **William Regal** beat **Midian** ... **Edge** & **Christian** (as **The Conquistadors**) defeated World tag team champions **The Hardy Boyz** to win the title ... **Triple-H** beat **Chris Benoit** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated World champion **The Rock** to win the title.
(10-22-00)

—Tim Dale



Billy Gunn, in one of his first matches back from a long layoff, stops Eddie Guerrero with a clothesline. Though Guerrero retained his I-C title by getting himself disqualified, Mr. Ass was pleased with his performance.



Lita may be the WWF women's champ, but that doesn't mean Jacquelyn doesn't get the better of her from time to time. During the six-man tag also featuring the Hardys and Edge and Christian, Jackie brought the pain.

NORTH CAROLINA

BURLINGTON—East Coast Pro Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Corey Edsel** defeated **Nick** and **Matt Simmons** in a three-way match ... **Sebastian Kane** & **Alan Rage** beat **Capital Punishment** by disqualification ... **Tim Blaze** defeated **Brian Cobb** ... **Bobby Fulton** defeated **High Octane** ... Intercontinental champion **Marc Ash** beat **Ethan Cage** ... **L.A. Wild One** & **Rob McBride** defeated **Slick Rick** & **Lumbee** in a lumberjack strap match ... **Damien Storm** defeated **Joe Storm** in a last-man-standing weapons match.
(10-21-00)

—Marcus Watkins

BURLINGTON—American Pro Wrestling at the Pleasant Grove Recreation Center: **Tennessee Thumper** defeated **Johnny Flash** ... **Eye of the Tiger** defeated **Righteous Rider** ... **Doc Sampson** & **Rough Ryder** defeated **The War Machines** ... **Iron Horse** & **Texas Outlaw** defeated **The Southside Playas** in a taped-fist match ... **The Texas Outlaws** wrestled **The Southside Playas**, **Johnny Flash**, & **Righteous Rider** to a double-disqualification in an eight-man tag match ... **The Wild-Eyed Southern Boys** defeated **The New Texas Outlaws** in a bunkhouse match ... **Loverboy** defeated **Tennessee Thumper**.
(10-14-00)

—John Baxter

ELKIN—American Pro Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **J. Marcus Lawson** & **James Jones** defeated **Delta Tiger** & **Johnny Flash** ... **Rough Ryder** & **Indian Outlaw** defeated **Crazy Horse** & **Chuck King** ... **The Confederate States Army** defeated **Righteous Ryder** & **Mystic** ... **The War Machines** defeated **Sweet Daddy** & **Lamont Steel** ... **Iron Horse** & **Nate Mulligan** defeated **The Southside Playas** ... **The Original Texas Outlaw** defeated **Loverboy** ... **The Wild-Eyed Southern Boys** defeated **The New Texas Outlaws**.
(10-21-00)

—James Frazier

ROANOKE RAPIDS—Continental Championship Wrestling at Northwest Halifax High School: **William Wealth** beat **Misfit** ... **Flex Phenom** beat **Vinnie Vain** and **Vax** in three-way match ... **Seven** beat **Firestorm** ... **Hot Properties** beat **Max Cortez** ... **Iron Chief** beat **Stratus** ... **Amber Holly** beat **Riptide** ... **Marc Ash** beat **Viper** in a barbed-wire match.
(10-14-00)

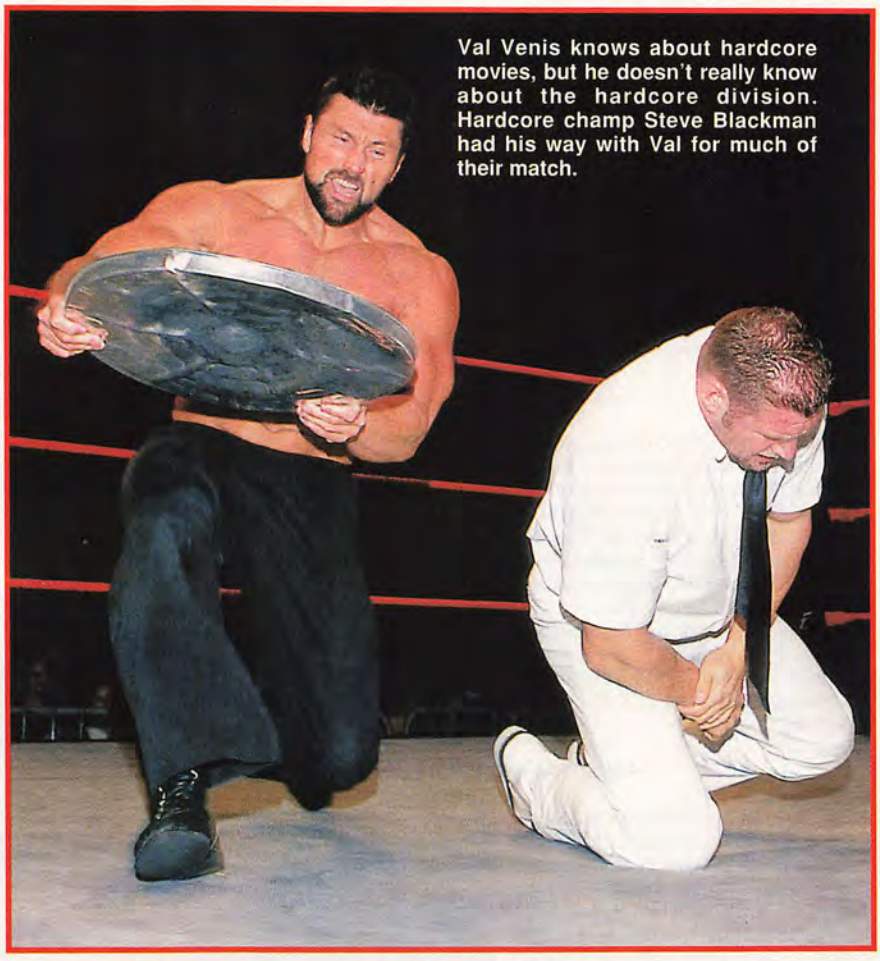
—Marcus Watkins

WINSTON-SALEM—World Wrestling Promotions at VFW Post 1134: **Atomic Freddy** defeated **The Sniper** ... **Alan Rage** defeated **Larry Isley** ... **Fly White Guy** defeated **Smoke** ... **Rob McBride** and **Mike Masters** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Dave Magnum** defeated **Razz** ... **Mental Disorders** and **Sudden Impact** wrestled to a no-contest.
(10-14-00)

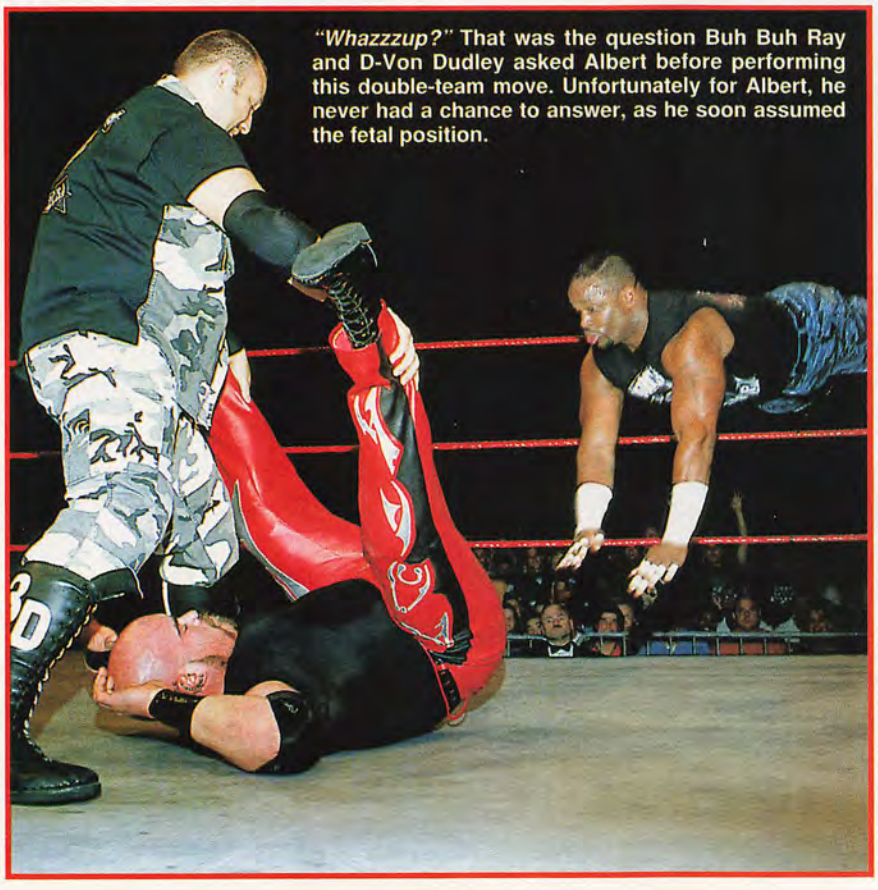
—Orlando Netols

OHIO

TOLEDO—WWF at the Toledo Sports Arena: European champion **Al Snow** beat **William Regal** ... **Perry Saturn** defeated **Essa Rios** ...



Val Venis knows about hardcore movies, but he doesn't really know about the hardcore division. Hardcore champ Steve Blackman had his way with Val for much of their match.



***"Whazzzup?"* That was the question Buh Buh Ray and D-Von Dudley asked Albert before performing this double-team move. Unfortunately for Albert, he never had a chance to answer, as he soon assumed the fetal position.**

World tag team champions **The Hardy Boyz** beat **Edge** & **Christian** ... Light heavyweight champion **Dean Malenko** defeated **Sho Funaki** ... **Too Cool** beat **Lo-Down** ... **The Kat** & **Just Joe** defeated **Ivory** & **The Brooklyn Brawler** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Chris Jericho** defeated **Chris Benoit** and **X-Pac** in a triple threat match.
(10-15-00)

—Lee North

NEWARK—International Wrestling Alliance at the Gym: **Cyrus Poe** defeated **Homicide** ... **Dale Johnson** defeated **Shawn Noxx** by disqualification ... **Bryan Fury** & **Tommy Chill** defeated **Road Block** & **Brad Schultz** ... **Death Adder** pinned **J.C. Storm** ... **Money D** defeated **Buford Poe** ... United States champion **Damien Kass** won a three-way match against **Demolition Ax** and **Bull Miller**.
(10-13-00)

—Bob Haggerty

OKLAHOMA

TULSA—Oklahoma Professional Wrestling at the OPW Arena: **Grenade** beat **Joey Cassanova** ... **Northern Threat** defeated **Cousin Cooter** in a handicap match ... **Brian Lakewood** & **Brandon Groom** beat **Ichiban** & **Tarantula** ... **Bolo** & **Bolo Jr.** defeated **Vinnie Valentino** & **Joey Cassanova** ... **Rocco Valentino** beat **Bull Schmitt** and heavyweight champ **Renegade** in a three-way match to win the title.
(10-14-00)

—Lester R. Jagnell

PENNSYLVANIA

PALO ALTO—Future Wrestling Alliance at Citizens Fire Hall: **Ronnie Zukko** defeated **High Voltage** ... **Marshall Law** pinned **Saboth** ... **Homicide** beat **Low-Ki** by disqualification in a match in which all top-rope maneuvers were banned ... **Ric Blade** pinned **Nick Burke** ... **The Bad Crew** beat **The Hit Squad** in a dog-collar match ... Tag team champions **Danny Rose** & **Adam Flash** beat **Mike Quackenbush** & **Dino Divine** ... **Twiggy Ramirez** pinned **Trent Acid** ... **Tommy Idol** & **Qeenan Creed** defeated **Mark Shrader** & **Rich Myers** ... Heavyweight champion **Jake Daniels** defeated **Don Montoya**.
(10-21-00)

—Timothy A. Walker

READING—IWA Championship Wrestling at the Riverside Beneficial Association: **Kevin Knight** defeated **Roman** ... **Kid America** defeated **Donnie B** ... **The Hooch Hollar Boys** & **Dangerous Debbie** defeated **The Beaters** & **Tony Rage** ... **Brooklyn Bomber** defeated **B.J. Thomas** ... **Draven McKnight** defeated **Tommy Golden** ... **Evan Leppy** defeated **Guillotine LeGrande** and **Barry B.P.A.** to become the first-ever IWA light heavyweight champion ... **Steve Corino** & **Rapid Fire Maldonado** defeated **J.D. Powers** & **Dylan Night**.
(10-19-00)

—Bryan Riegel

McKEESPORT—Pittsburgh Wrestling League at Turner's Arena: **J.T. Rodgers** defeated **J-Ru** ... **Scott Venom** defeated **Eric Extasy** ... **Guido Corleone** & **King Tut** and **Bubba the Bulldog** & **Homicyde** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... TV champion **Orion** defeated **The Millennium Kid** ... **Quinn Magnum** defeated **Boomer Payne** in the finals of the NWA-East heavyweight title tournament to win the title ... **Shirley Doe**, **Devil Bhudakahn**, & **Mad Mike** defeated **Super Hentai**, **Crusher Hanson**, & **Samu**. Due to a prematch stipulation, Doe and Bhudakahn won the PWL tag team title.
(10-13-00)

—Steven Clark

ATHENS—Penn York Wrestling at the Fall Fest: **Brickwall Bradley** wrestled to double-disqualification with **D.A. Thunder** ... **Apollo Starr** pinned **Preston Steele** ... **Big Poppa Chill** defeated **I.B. Green** ... **H.C. Loc** pinned **Eric "The Torpedo" Tuttle** ... **"Cowboy" Don Adams** defeated **The Scorpion** in a no-disqualification last-man-standing match ... **I.B. Green** won a 15-man battle royal.
(10-07-00)

—Randy Faust

RHODE ISLAND

WARWICK—South Coast Championship Wrestling at Warwick Veterans High School: **The Sun Dragon** beat **The Vertabreaker**, **Kid Krazy**, and **Blade** in a four-way elimination match ... **Rick Fuller** defeated **Kevin Kelly** ... Interstate champion **Trent McNeely** beat **Nick Steel** ... **Amanda Storm** beat **Chris Blackheart** ... **Frankie Armadillo** & **Damian Houston** defeated **The Power Company** ... **Gino Giovanni** beat **The Highlight Kid** ... Heavyweight champion **Johnny Angel** beat **Cpl. Payne** ... **King Kong Bundy** defeated **Don Vega**.
(10-14-00)

—Jeremy Barron

TEXAS

PLANO—Texas Championship Wrestling at the Nuthin But Net Rec Center: **Melissa** beat **Epi Tha Phat Samoan** ... **The Uptown Boys** beat **The Dark Knights** ... **El Commando** defeated **"Hot Shot" Scott Patric** ... **Samir** beat **Flame** ... **Beast** defeated **Big Johnson** ... Cruiserweight champion **Joey Corman** and **Chris Chronic** wrestled to a double-disqualification.
(10-21-00)

—Greg Stevens

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS—NWA Southwest at the Texas Indoor Arena: **Kevin Douglas** beat **Chris Chronic** ... **Mike Anthony** defeated **Gravedigger** ... **Mike Thunder** beat **Joey Corman** ... **Al Jackson** defeated **The Beast** ... **Action Jackson** and **Big Manu** wrestled to a double-disqualification.
(10-13-00)

—Rob Moore

HUMBLE—Texas All-Star Wrestling at the Humble Bingo Hall: **Ministuff** defeated **Samir** ... **Joey Corman** beat **Zane Morris** ... **Skyler** and **Alexis Devine** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Joey Corman** beat **Ministuff** to win the cruiserweight title ... **Necro Butcher** defeated **Jack Royal** ... Texas champion **Hotstuff Hernandez** beat **Bobby 2 Badd** and **Mr. Mayhem** in a three-way match.
(10-07-00)

—Terry Ollance

VIRGINIA

NEWPORT NEWS—Virginia Championship Wrestling at Mitty's Nightclub: **Robert Royal** & **Lexie Fyfe** defeated **Chris Jacobs** & **Neil Sharkey** in a mixed tag team match ... **Ray Storm** pinned **Corey James** ... **Q-Sic** & **2 Damn Smooth** defeated **Idol X**, **Hot Property**, & **Mervin Snead** ... **Scab** defeated heavyweight champion **Preston Quinn** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Preston Quinn** defeated **Scab** and **Jacey North** in a three-way match when he pinned Scab ... **Idol X** won a battle royal.
(10-22-00)

—Justin Russell

St. Louis has never ranked high on Kurt Angle's list of favorite places. Given the painful memories that were etched into his mind by Triple-H (below) and The Rock (opposite page, right), he might never think highly of this great town.

CHASE CITY—Southern States Wrestling at the Fairgrounds: **Grappler II** beat **Chuck Jones** ... **K.C. Thunder** pinned **Wade Adams** ... **Beau James** defeated **Pork Chop Thomas** ... **Mike Draven** beat **Boris Dragoff** ... **Wade Adams** & **Pork Chop Thomas** beat **Beau James** & **K.C. Thunder** ... **Rick Link** wrestled **Manny Fernandez** to a double-countout ... **Pee Wee Pete** won a battle royal.
(10-14-00)

—Paul Heink

ATKINS—American Independent Wrestling Federation at the Fire Department: **Rage** defeated **The Unknown Soldier** ... **Jackie Anderson** defeated **Mitch Blake** ... **Creeping Death** defeated U.S. champ **Rick Deezel** in a non-title match ... **Major Havoc** & **The Scorpion** defeated **The Savior** & **Jason McNasty** and **Chainz** & **Venom** in a three-way match ... **Poison** defeated **Steve Niles** by disqualification.
(10-07-00)

—Larry Deacon

WEST VIRGINIA

OAK HILL—APW at the Oak Hill Armory: **Cuban Assassin II** defeated **Drake Tungsten** ... **Scotty Blaze** defeated **Steve Hart** ... **Joey Morton** defeated **Shawn Adams** ... **The Canadians** defeated **The Bad Boys** ... **War Machine** defeated **Rick Morton** in a steel cage match.
(10-17-00)

—Doug Detmer

BLUEFIELD—RAM Wrestling at the Brushfork Armory: **Hot Property** defeated **Dylan Knight** and **The Assassin** in a three-way match ... **Beef** pinned **Ricky Noble** ... **Chilly Willy** & **Shady** defeated **The Russian Mafia** ... **Rolling Thunder** beat **Frank Parker** ... **C.W. Anderson** defeated **Lodi**.
(10-15-00)

—Jay Repsen

WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY—ECW at Shopko Hall: **Chris Hamrick** beat **Michael Shane** ... **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** defeated **Simon Diamond** & **Chris Chetti** ... **Nova** beat **Prodigy** ... World tag team champions **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Mamaluke** defeated **Christian York** & **Joey Matthews** ... **Steve Corino** beat **Bilvis Wesley** ... **The Sandman** & **Kid Kash** defeated **E.Z. Money** & **Julio Dinero** ... World champion **Jerry Lynn** beat **C.W. Anderson** ... TV champ **Rhino** defeated **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Mahoney**, **Chilly Willy**, & **New Jack** beat **Da Baldies**.
(10-06-00)

—Dutch Krewda

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY—WCW at the Sydney Entertainment Centre: **Kwee Wee** beat **Elix Skipper** ... **Shane Douglas** & **Torrie Wilson** beat **Konnan** & **Tygress** ... **Gen. Rection** beat U.S. champ **Lance Storm** by disqualification ... **Ernest "The Cat" Miller** defeated cruiserweight champion **Mike Sanders** in a non-title match ... **Scott Steiner** won a battle royal to gain a shot World champ **Booker T** later in the evening ... World tag team champs **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** beat **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Billy Kidman** ... **Sting** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Bill Goldberg** beat **Kronic** ... World champion **Booker T** defeated **Scott Steiner**.
(10-10-00)

—Teresa Landis

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
MARCH

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—NWA at the Olympic Auditorium: **Sol Lothario** beat **Raul Mata** ... **Goliath** defeated **La Pantera Negra** ... **Art Dominquez** beat **Bengali** ... **Killer Kowalski** defeated **Art Mahalik** ... **Black Gordman**, **John Tolos**, **Dory Dixon**, & **Don Carson** beat **Kenji Shibuya**, **Massa Saito**, **Peace Brother Joey**, & **Kubla Kahn**.
(03-16-72)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Tony Garea** & **Rick Martel** beat **Charlie Fulton** & **The Masked Executioner** ... **Pat Patterson** defeated **Lou Albano** ... **Fabulous Moolah** & **Wendi Richter** beat **Velvet McIntyre** & **Princess Victoria** ... **Steve Travis** defeated **Jose Estrada** ... **Greg Valentine** beat **S.D. Jones** ... **Andre the Giant** & **Rick McGraw** beat World tag team champions **Mr. Fuji** & **Mr. Saito** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Pedro Morales** defeated **Adrian Adonis** ... World champion **Bob Backlund** beat **Jesse Ventura**.
(03-14-82)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Hans Mortier** and **Bobo Brazil** wrestled to a draw ... **Ernie Ladd** beat **Klondike Bill** ... **Miguel Perez** defeated **Lou Bastien** ... **Pedro Morales** beat **Bobby Davis** by disqualification ... **Bill Watts** defeated **Luke Graham** ... **Tiny Tim** & **Irish Jackie** beat **Sky Low Low** & **Fuzzy Cupid** ... World champion **Bruno Sammartino** defeated **Jerry Graham**.
(03-16-64)

—PWI archives

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ringside

(Continued from page 13)

Gen. Rection power-bombs Lance Storm during their extended feud. When Rection finally defeated Storm to win the WCW U.S. title, most of the locker room showed its support by emptying out and giving him a round of applause.

led by **Bill Goldberg**. Fortunately for Rection, the group was not out there to deliver a mugging. Instead, they were out there to show their support for one of their own by giving the hard-working Rection a standing ovation. Afterward, I caught up with Rection backstage.

"Will, I don't know what was more special to me, winning the U.S. title last night or seeing my fellow wrestlers come out and throw their support in my direction," Rection said. "I've busted my butt in this sport for a lot of years now, and I've never seen anything like that—not for me, not for anyone. It felt good, real good, in fact."

That's it for me this month, fans. Enjoy your wanderings. ☐

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DEADLY VENOM

JEFF JARRETT'S STRANGE "STROKE" OF LUCK!
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WHO DOES HE REALLY
HATE?
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Ten months. Ten long, grueling, pain-filled months. Even the nicest, most affable person would turn into a miserable grouch after sitting home lame for such a long time. So you can imagine how Steve Austin felt while recovering from the hit-and-run incident that threatened to end his career.

PWI's January 2001 cover story, "Who Does He Really Hate? Someone Will Pay For All Austin's Pain!" tried to guess Austin's plan of attack upon his return to the WWF. After reading the story, many of our readers offered their opinions on Austin's options.

"Well, we know Rikishi is the one who ran down Austin," wrote Eric Kincade of Chula Vista, California. "He's going to beat Rikishi to a pulp, and then he's going to do it again."

"One thing you know about Austin is that he pretty much hates everyone in the WWF," wrote Mandi Snyder of Bayonne, New Jersey. "He might decide to make the entire roster pay for his pain."

"I don't care what anyone says," wrote Burt Costello of New Britain, Connecticut, "Austin's gonna go after The Rock, friend or foe."

HAD SOME TIME TO KILL, HUH?

Maybe I have too much time on my hands, but after reading the great *"PWI* 500" issue (Holiday 2000), I sat down with my *PWI Almanac* and came up with a cumulative list of the top wrestlers in the 10-year history of the "500."

What I did was assign a point total to every wrestler, 501 points to the top wrestler in each year's ranking and one point to the last wrestler ranked. If a wrestler was not ranked, he received zero points. This may not prove much beyond the staying power of certain wrestlers, but I think it's interesting nonetheless. Here are the top 50:

Reader James McAndrew was kind enough to tabulate the *"PWI* 500's" top 50 men of all-time. Using the point system he created, Vader came out as the "500's" best man over the past decade.

1—Vader 4,795; 2—Ric Flair 4,790; 3—Scott Steiner 4,785; 4—Great Muta 4,762; 5—Jeff Jarrett 4,761; 6—Hulk Hogan 4,753; 7—Rick Steiner 4,652; 8—Chris Benoit 4,601; 9—Shane Douglas 4,459; 10—Mitsuharu Misawa 4,437; 11—Sting 4,435; 12—Jerry Lawler 4,399; 13—Bam Bam Bigelow 4,371; 14—Steve Austin 4,369; 15—Bret Hart 4,345; 16—Faarooq 4,344; 17—Sabu 4,323; 18—Randy Savage 4,310; 19—Jushin Liger 4,224; 20—X-Pac 4,145; 21—Terry Funk 4,102; 22—Stan Hansen 4,091; 23—Dean Malenko 3,977; 24—Sid Vicious 3,890; 25—Steve Williams 3,886; 26—Tracey Smothers 3,872; 27—Tazz 3,856; 28—Lex Luger 3,826; 29—Konnan 3,808; 30—Masa Chono 3,797; 31—Big Bossman 3,795; 32—Kevin Nash 3,793; 33—Kenta Kobashi 3,785; 34—Hawk 3,779; 35—Mike Rotundo 3,760; 36—Mick Foley 3,727; 37—Scott Hall 3,660; 38—Toshiaki Kawada 3,641; 39—Genichiro Tenryu 3,639; 40—Kensuke Sasaki 3,620; 41—Dustin Rhodes 3,590; 42—Chris Candido 3,568; 43—Davey Boy Smith 3,507; 44—Raven 3,438; 45—Tommy Dreamer 3,405; 46—Rob Van Dam 3,394; 47—Undertaker 3,386; 48—Owen Hart 3,340; 49—Abdullah the Butcher 3,308; 50—Tatsumi Fujinami 3,178.

JAMES McANDREW
Tulsa, OK

OTHER "500" STUFF

I don't know how the *"PWI* 500" works exactly, but I do know I read the following in the "What You Oughta Know" introduction: "Winning with the aid of outside interference is not looked highly upon."

Well, if winning with the aid of outside

interference is not looked highly upon, how in the world did Triple-H take home the top spot in this year's "500"?

I know that Triple-H was a pretty dominant WWF champion, but he won most of his matches because he's a great cheater, not because he's a great wrestler. The Rock should have been number one this year.

CHRISTOPHER LEATS
Marathon, TX

Good job with this year's "500." I think it was probably the best "500" I've seen you guys at *PWI* produce.

RICH MARSHALL
Westborough, MA

Mike Awesome at seven? Are you guys kidding? Did he scare you guys into giving him that ranking?

SCOTT PEAK
Sodaville, OR

This year's "*PWI* 500" was excellent—except for one thing: Sid Vicious' ranking—number 18—makes me want to vomit. I mean, I know that big Sid had a decent run as WCW World champion during the "500's" August-to-August grading period, but as soon as he dropped the belt when Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo relaunched WCW, the guy dropped off the face of the earth.

Sure, I believe that winning a world championship and holding it for a lengthy amount of time should count for something in the "500." But I also think pure talent and stability should, too.

ERIC RICCI
Mauckport, IN

If you're going to put three Japanese wrestlers in the top 10 of the "500," you'd be well-served to add a little more coverage of the Japanese wrestling scene to your magazine. Mike Spillane does a fine job with "The Japan Report," but it's not enough. To me, it just seems kind of silly to give these guys the highest praise possible by including them in the "500," then basically ignore them the rest of the year.

DAVID SIMPSON
Paden, OK

From the mid- to late-'90s, Scott Hall (pushing around Booker T), was one of WCW's top stars. Now that WCW has let Hall go, Sam Drivan doesn't want to see him back in the WWF unless he has his act together.

☎ RETURN OF "THE BAD GUY"?

Having just learned that Scott Hall was finally let go by WCW, I hope Vince McMahon doesn't make the mistake of taking the guy we used to know as Razor Ramon back. The atmosphere in the WWF locker room is too stable right now to bring in an ego the size of Hall's. Don't get me wrong, I think Hall can be one of the sport's most entertaining characters, but until we can be sure he has his act together, he's too much of a risk.

SAM DRIVAN
Stonewall, LA

WE'LL TRY ...

As a long-time reader of *PWI*, I am sick and tired of all the WCW bashing. I have seen the best wrestling matches come from this federation over the past 12 years. I'd pit the Lance Storm vs. Mike Awesome *Nitro* match for the U.S. title against any match seen in the WWF.

I agree that WCW has to do something to get better. However, Vince Russo has done an excellent job of pushing the young talent and getting the backbone of WCW (Ric Flair and Sting) in the major storylines. Was it just me or did Booker T beat Chris Benoit in the best-of-eight series for the TV title? All I ever hear is Benoit this, Benoit that. What about Booker T? The man can wrestle, and he does it well. Plus, he has the gold to prove it—unlike our friend who left for greener pastures.

All I am asking for is a little bit of positive WCW coverage. I have always respected this magazine for its unbiased coverage, so please don't make me lose it.

MICHAEL B. MIZE
Mineola, TX

BELL IS TOLLING

I'm worried about ECW's future. Without a national cable program to promote house shows and pay-per-views, I really don't know how the company is going to survive. I know that ECW owner Paul Heyman has kept the company alive when it's been in dire straits before, but he could be facing his most difficult dilemma to date. I just hope ECW will persevere.

ROBERT J. ADAMS
Millington, TN □

PWI HOTLINE EXTRA!

YOUR ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

Question of the Week: Do you think Mick Foley will come out of retirement to wrestle another match? And if so, whom will he wrestle? (October 10 to October 16, 2000)

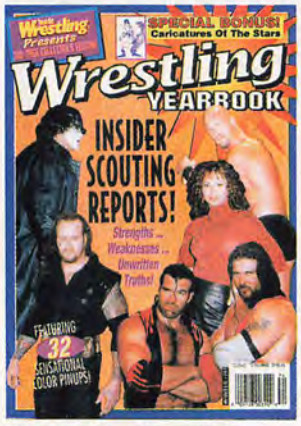
Hotline callers respond: "Of course Foley is going to come out of retirement," said Max Baker of Trenton, New Jersey. "Wrestling's in his blood, and he never did have a definitive match with Steve Austin."

"I really don't think Mick's gonna wrestle again," said Susan Clement of Rochester, New York. "We've seen what he puts his family through when he wrestles, and I don't think he wants to torture them like that again."

"I'll be honest—I thought Mick would've come out of retirement already," said Clive Weeks of Coventry, England. "Being that he hasn't, I think his ring days are definitely over."

WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING?


Wrestling Presents
SPECIAL BONUS! Caricatures Of The Stars
Wrestling YEARBOOK
INSIDER SCOUTING REPORTS!
Strengths ... Weaknesses ... Unwritten Truths!
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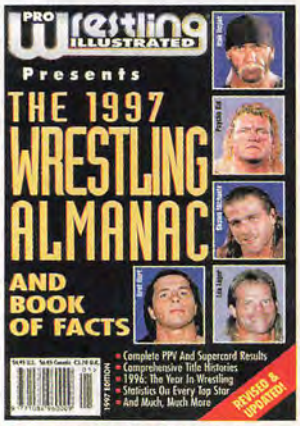
1997 WRESTLING YEARBOOK

Our caricaturist, Jason Conlan, has some fun with the sport's biggest stars. 30 full-page drawings accompany 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!



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The authoritative wrestling reference tool. Complete PPV and supercard results. Title histories. 1996 in history. Stats. Digest-sized. 196 pages!

PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. I)

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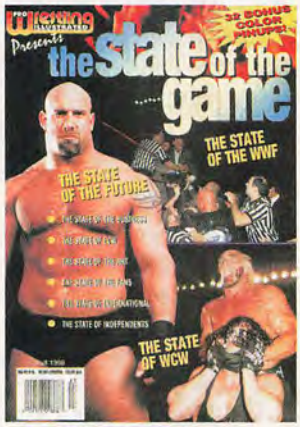

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We break the sport down in every conceivable category and present our expert analyses as to where the sport is at and where it's going. 32 color pinups!

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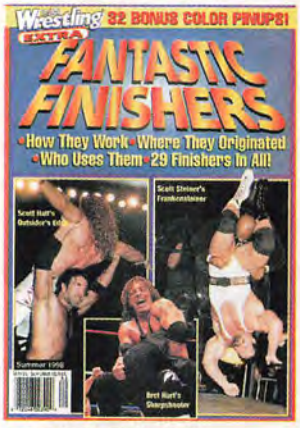
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32 BONUS COLOR PINUPS!
FANTASTIC FINISHERS
How They Work • Where They Originated
Who Uses Them • 29 Finishers In All!

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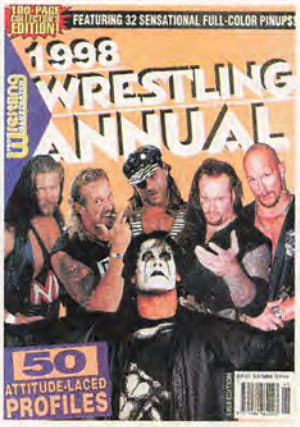

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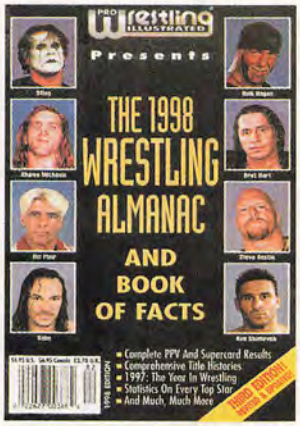

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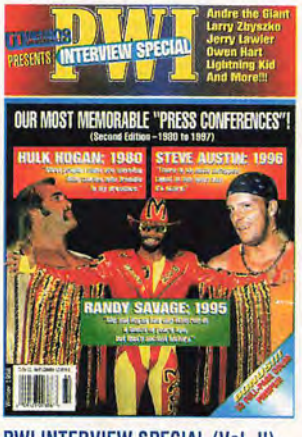

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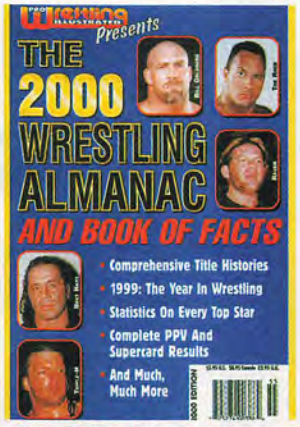
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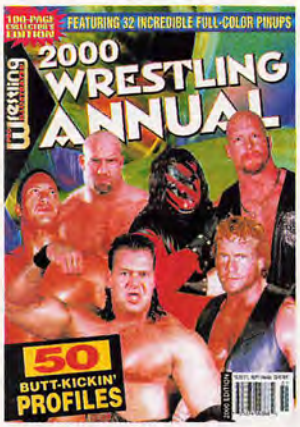

2000 WRESTLING ANNUAL
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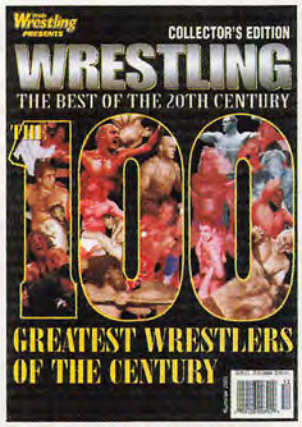

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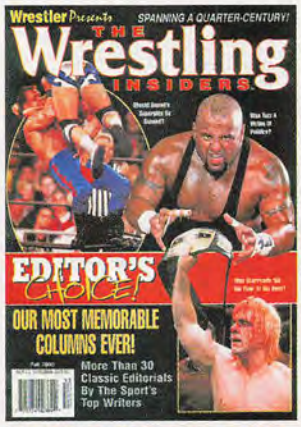
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- ☐ 1999 Wrestling Yearbook
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLASSIC

From the September 1982 issue

A typographical error on the cover of our August 1982 issue so enraged Roddy Piper that he felt compelled to vent his anger in person. Editor-in-Chief Peter King found himself on the receiving end of Piper's tantrums and threats ... and finds himself on Piper's permanent list of enemies

Roddy Piper Threatens *PWI*

"GET MY NAME RIGHT OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!"

When Roddy Piper was on the set of *Georgia Championship Wrestling* and found out we referred to him as *Rodney* Piper, well, let's just say he wasn't happy.

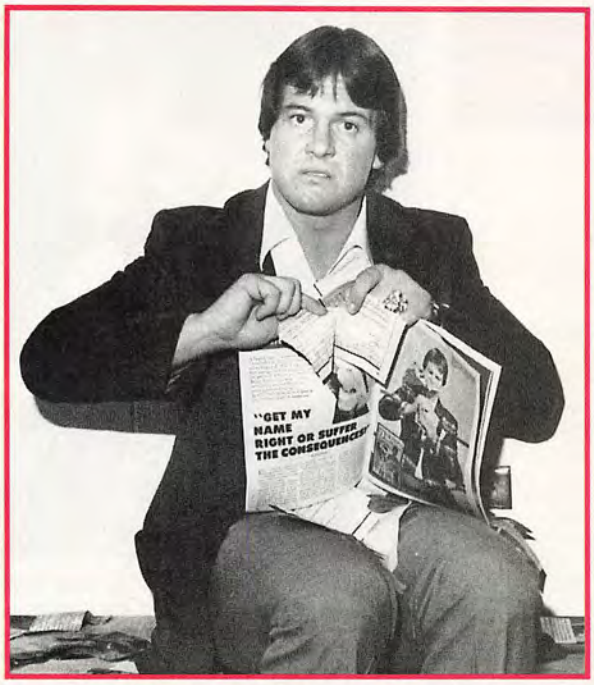
By Peter King

I HAVE NEVER experienced anything like it in all my years as a wrestling magazine editor. I hope I never have to go through anything like it again.

It was a typically busy Monday morning. Deadline was Tuesday, so there was no time to waste. Telephone calls had to be made, stories edited, copy checked, photographs okayed. In short, all the 1,001 details that go into the production of a magazine like PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED had to be taken care of.

The phone rang and the secretary buzzed twice; that's the signal that the call is for me. I picked up the line, said "Hello," and heard the click of a receiver being placed back on the phone.

It's an old trick, one that news-



Even after *PWI* originally ran the story containing Piper's threats, he was none too happy. He was a pretty irritable guy back then.

paper reporters used to use quite a bit simply to see if someone they wanted to speak with was home or not. Burglars use it to check if anyone is in the house they want to rob. I paid no attention to it. I was far too busy.

About an hour or so later, as I was editing a story about "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka and Bob Backlund, I heard a loud commotion in the outer office. The secretaries were screaming at someone who was screaming back even louder.

"I want to see Peter King right now!" the voice screamed. "I don't care how busy he is. I flew all the way up from Atlanta and I want to see him immediately!"

Roughly three seconds later, a very agitated Roddy Piper stormed up to my desk and threw a manila envelope into my lap.

"Okay, what's the meaning of this?" he asked, spitting out each syllable with disgust. "What are you guys up to? Payoffs? Is that it? Getting checks from Tommy Rich and the Armstrongs? Maybe Dusty Rhodes? Getting paid to make a fool out of me?"

I told him to calm down a minute and tell me what this was all about. "Open the envelope," Piper said, "that should make things clear enough."

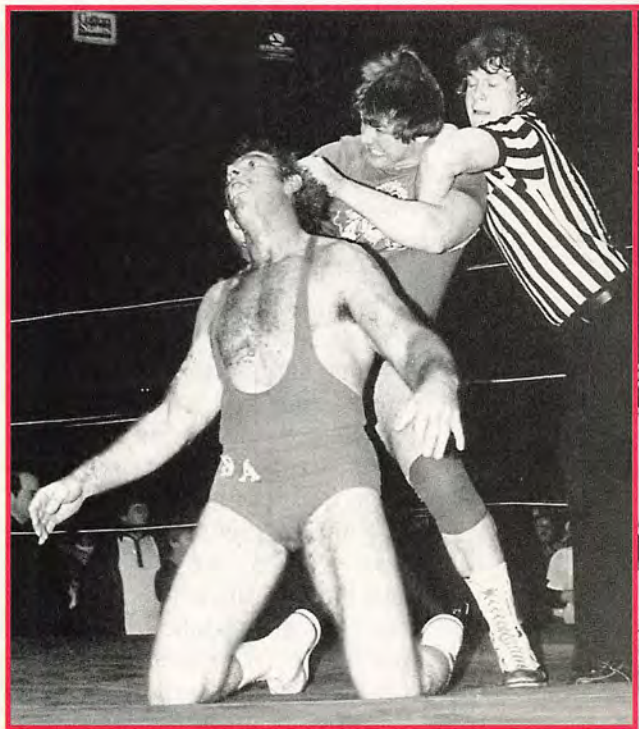
When I opened the manila envelope, shreds of paper fell out and into my hands. There was also a roll of undeveloped film.

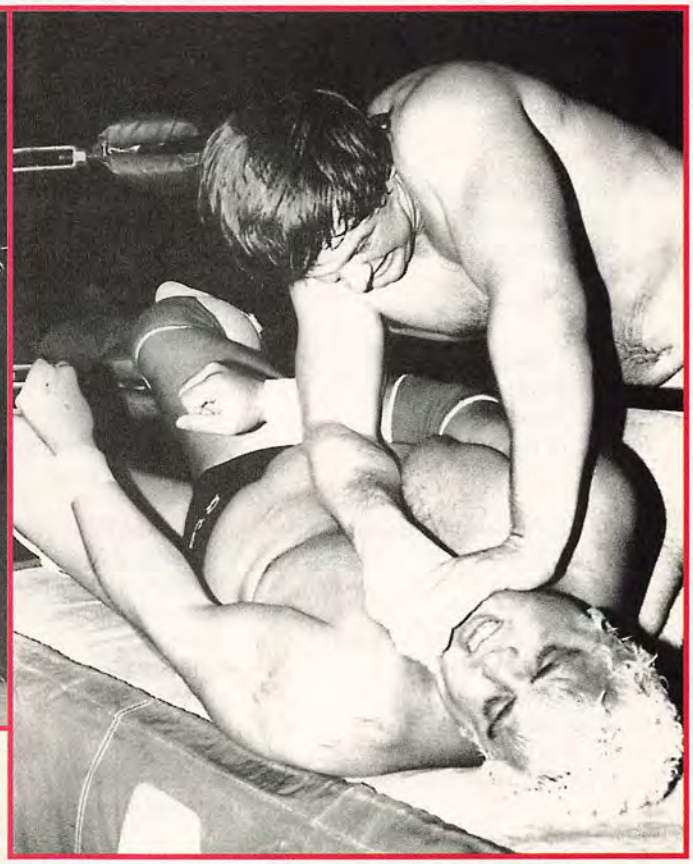
"What's all this?" I asked.

"That's a copy of your rag, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED," Piper said with contempt.

"What's this film?" I asked.

"Photos from one of your people, Emmy Yates, of an interview I did with Super Destroyer where the truth of your yellow journalism was brought out into the public eye for all to see and hate."





Piper wasn't a strong advocate of fair play inside the wrestling ring in the early-1980s. If he felt he was wronged by *PWI*, weren't men like Bob Armstrong (above) and Dusty Rhodes (right) justified in complaining that they were wronged by Piper?

PWI RATINGS September 1982

Bob Backlund

WWF
1. Bob Backlund (World champion)
2. Jimmy Snuka
3. Blackjack Mulligan
4. "Cowboy" Bob Orton
5. Pedro Morales
6. Greg Valentine
7. Tony Atlas
8. Chief Jay Strongbow
9. Adrian Adonis
10. Ivan Putski

NWA
1. Ric Flair (World champion)
2. Sgt. Slaughter
3. Buzz Sawyer
4. Jim Garvin
5. Roddy Piper
6. Bruiser
7. Butch Reed
8. Harley Race
9. David Von Erich
10. Tommy Rich

AWA
1. Nick Bockwinkel (World champion)
2. Hulk Hogan
3. Tito Santana
4. Ken Patera
5. Baron Von Raschke
6. Crusher Blackwell
7. Rick Martel
8. Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie
9. Jim Brunzell
10. Greg Gagne

TAG TEAMS
1. Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito
2. Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
3. Super Destroyer & John Studd
4. Butch Reed & Sweet Brown Sugar
5. Pvt. Nelson & Pvt. Kernodle
6. Jay & Jules Strongbow
7. Dewey Robertson & Steve Regal
8. The Samoans
9. Crusher Blackwell & Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie
10. Jerry Lawler & Dutch Mantel

MOST POPULAR
1. Andre the Giant
2. Tommy Rich
3. Dusty Rhodes
4. Bob Backlund
5. Rick Steamboat
6. Hulk Hogan
7. Mil Mascaras
8. Mr. Wrestling II
9. Blackjack Mulligan Jr.
10. Junkyard Dog

MOST HATED
1. Roddy Piper
2. Blackjack Mulligan
3. Sgt. Slaughter
4. Ric Flair
5. Ken Patera
6. Jimmy Snuka
7. Kabuki
8. David Von Erich
9. Harley Race
10. Buck Robley

Ric Flair will gladly tell anyone just how nasty Piper can be when he's angry. And he has been angry a lot during his wrestling career.

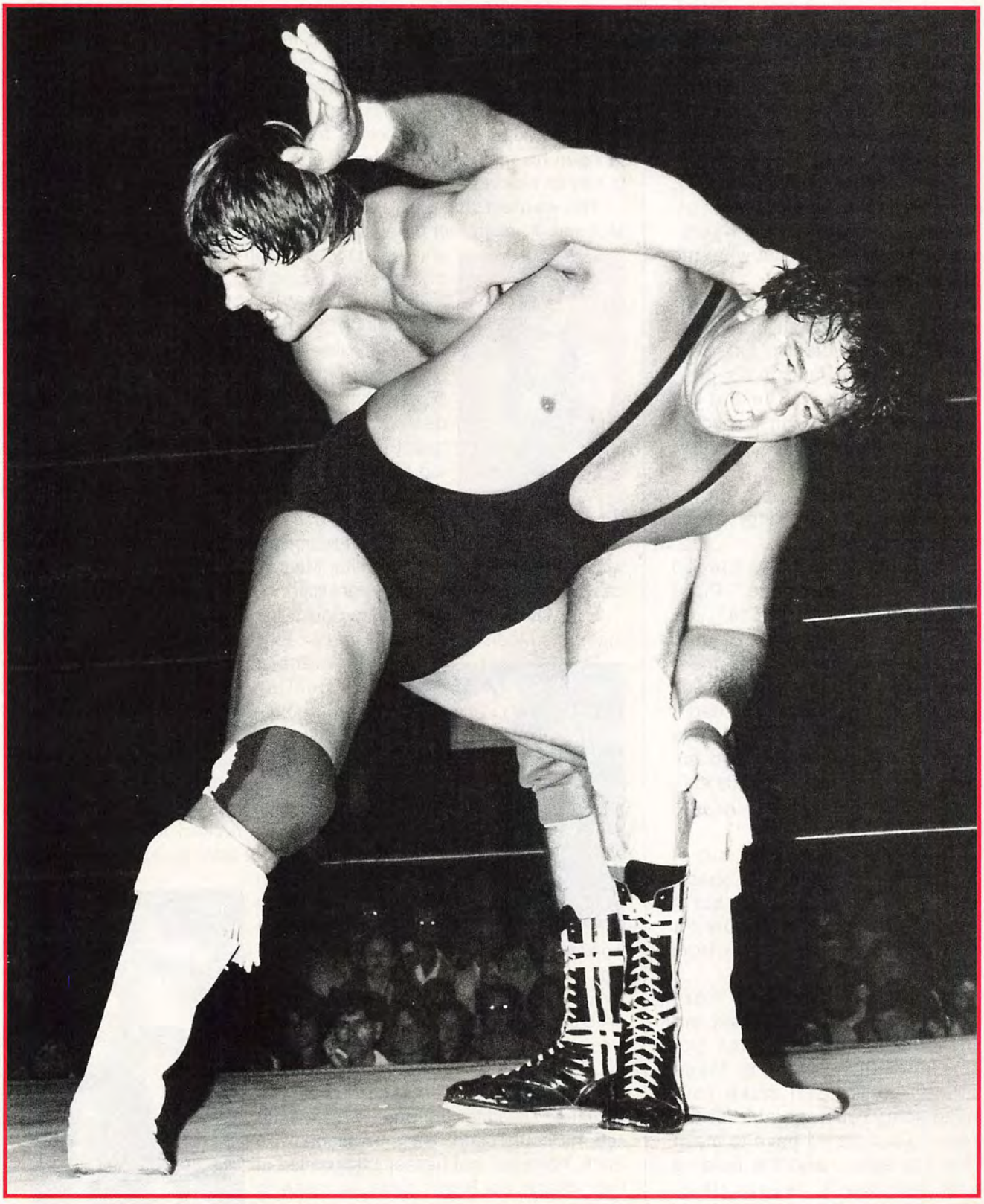
I still didn't quite understand. I checked the magazine binder that held every issue of *PWI* since we started publishing and turned to the most recent issues.

There it was: clear as day right on the cover. "Rodney Piper: The Most Powerful Voice In Wrestling." It was our August 1982 issue.

Suddenly I remembered: I had spotted the error in his name just before the magazine went to press. I meant to call and correct the error, I mentioned it to our production chief, but it just slipped everyone's mind. Life gets hectic around deadline time, but never has something like this slipped through and into print. As far as I was concerned, there was no excuse, but that didn't make this enraged wrestler in front of me disappear.

"I don't know why you people have it in for me," Piper said, "but I'm fed up with it. I do my job, I do a fine job, and when I get home from a hard day in front of the cameras having to put up with the abuse from people like Rich and the Armstrongs, I don't want to have to see the same kind of abuse from one of your magazines.

"Look, in another one of your rags, you printed a poll of the fans to see who the sexiest wrestler is [*Wrestling Superstars*, Fall 1982]," Piper continued. "Now that's not your fault. I know you can't help it if the fans are too blind to realize that the great R.P. is one of the sexiest men ever to grace the wrestling ring, I can't help it if the fans are so stupid as to vote for Rick Martel



Another one of Piper's rivals during the 1980s, Wahoo McDaniel, feels some pain as Piper cinches on an abdominal stretch.

and Tommy Rich as the two sexiest wrestlers in the sport, that's *their* problem.

"But my problem is that now you've got a fan ballot going that's trying to run me out of a job," screamed Piper, referring to a poll in the August issue of *The Wrestler.* "How would you like it if I started a campaign on television to run your magazines out of business?"

"Hey, listen," I interrupted, "that has nothing to do with us. You're a controversial figure, and we have to find out what the fans think about ..."

"Find out nothing," he declared. "It's a blatant attempt to make me look bad, to turn people against me, and that's playing dirty. Now you've got my name as 'Rodney' on the cover of your magazine ... what gives?"

"Fine, but read the story," I told Piper, "it's praising you all over the place."

"As well it should, King! I deserve all that praise," Piper declared. "But let me tell you one thing: Get my name right in the future or suffer the consequences! My name is Roderick Piper. It is not Roddy. I've had it up to here with irresponsible people attacking me and my good name, and from this day forward, I'm not putting up with any of it."

Piper turned to storm out of the office as I sat in near shock. He was visibly enraged, but it must have hurt him deeply for him to travel to our office from Atlanta like that.

"One more thing," Piper added as he was practically out the door. "Another attack like this and I'll be back in these offices so fast it'll make your head spin. You'll regret it for the rest of your life if I have to make this trip again, and I'm holding you personally responsible. Remember that well, King, remember it well." □

PWI, September 1982

The cover: Tommy Rich was one of the most popular stars in the world at the time and a frequent *PWI* cover subject. In this cover story, however, we weren't praising Rich. Instead, we suggested that Rich find a manager to help him fight his way out of a slump and to prevent his enemies from interfering in his matches. Rich, however, chose to stay on his own.

The centerfold: The name Blackjack Mulligan Jr. might not be all that familiar to you, but he was a worthy centerfold subject who went on to have a terrific career in the NWA/WCW and the WWF. In fact, he was in WCW less than a year ago. You might know him a little better as Barry Windham.

Moving On: Rick Martel was the subject of "Press Conference," as he had just announced his decision to give up his quest to regain the WWF tag title (with Tony Garea) from Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito and move on to the AWA to focus on singles matches. It would be in the AWA in 1984 that Martel would capture his only world heavyweight title.

Fury Of A Madman: Jimmy Snuka had just made his Madison Square Garden debut, and was it ever a memorable one! He absolutely dominated WWF champion Bob Backlund and defeated him by disqualification. When Backlund tried to stop Snuka from attacking his manager, Arnold Skaaland, Snuka attacked the champ and knocked him out cold. Backlund had to be carried out of the ring on a stretcher. Some wondered if he'd ever recover. He obviously did.

Evil Wins: Jack Brisco was having a difficult time dealing with the fact that he was unable to show David Von Erich that he didn't need evil manager J.J. Dillon in order to succeed. He thought by cleanly defeating David for the Southern title himself, he could send him a message. Von Erich, however, got himself disqualified in their match, so Brisco gave up trying to reform him.

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1. **BOOKER T**
   250, Houston, TX
   (2) WCW World champion
2. **THE ROCK**
   272, Miami, FL
   (1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
3. **GENICHIRO TENRYU**
   235, Tokyo, Japan
   (–) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
4. **KURT ANGLE**
   233, Pittsburgh, PA
   (10) WWF World champion
5. **SCOTT STEINER**
   275, Detroit, MI
   (–) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
6. **RHINO**
   285, Detroit, MI
   (7) ECW TV champion
7. **TRIPLE-H**
   284, Greenwich, CT
   (6) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
8. **STEVE CORINO**
   219, Sea Isle City, NJ
   (–) ECW World champion
9. **GEN. RECTION**
   310, Titusville, FL
   (–) WCW U.S. champion
10. **EDDIE GUERRERO**
    221, El Paso, TX
    (8) WWF Intercontinental champion

Gen. Rection

TAG TEAMS

1. **JEFF & MATT HARDY**
   Combined weight: 422 pounds
   (1) WWF World tag team champions
2. **TONY MAMALUKE & LITTLE GUIDO MARITATO**
   Combined weight: 420 pounds
   (2) ECW World tag team champions
3. **MARK JINDRAK & SEAN O'HAIRE**
   Combined weight: 503 pounds
   (7) WCW World tag team champions
4. **SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
   Combined weight: 493 pounds
   (3) IWGP International tag team champions
5. **CHRISTIAN & EDGE**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (5) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
6. **YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI & MIKEY WHIPWRECK**
   Combined weight: 428 pounds
   (6) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title
7. **TEST & ALBERT**
   Combined weight: 642 pounds
   (–) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
8. **DISQO & ALEX WRIGHT**
   Combined weight: 460 pounds
   (–) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
9. **BULL BUCHANAN & THE GOODFATHER**
   Combined weight: 665 pounds
   (10) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
10. **KRONIC**
    Combined weight: 622 pounds
    (9) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
BOOKER T
(C) 250, Houston, TX

1. **GEN. RECTION** *(–) 310, Titusville, FL*
2. **SCOTT STEINER** *(4) 275, Detroit, MI*
3. **BILL GOLDBERG** *(3) 283, Tulsa, OK*
4. **MIKE AWESOME** *(7) 285, Tampa, FL*
5. **JEFF JARRETT** *(2) 230, Nashville, TN*
6. **LANCE STORM** *(1) 231, Calgary, Alberta*
7. **STING** *(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
8. **MIKE SANDERS** *(8) 230, Atlanta, GA*
9. **RENO** *(–) 240, Buffalo, NY*
10. **SHANE DOUGLAS** *(6) 255, Pittsburgh, PA*

WWF

World Champion:
KURT ANGLE
(4) 233, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **EDDIE GUERRERO** *(1) 221, El Paso, TX*
2. **THE ROCK** *(C) 272, Miami, FL*
3. **TRIPLE-H** *(3) 284, Greenwich, CT*
4. **CHRIS JERICHO** *(10) 225, Winnipeg, Manitoba*
5. **CHRIS BENOIT** *(2) 218, Edmonton, Alberta*
6. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(–) 252, Victoria, TX*
7. **RIKISHI** *(7) 424, San Francisco, CA*
8. **WILLIAM REGAL** *(–) 257, Blackpool, England*
9. **STEVE BLACKMAN** *(6) 245, Annville, PA*
10. **CHYNA** *(–) 201, Nashua, NH*

ECW

World Champion:
STEVE CORINO
(3) 219, Sea Isle City, NJ

1. **RHINO** *(1) 285, Detroit, MI*
2. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE** *(2) 227, Waterbury, CT*
3. **JERRY LYNN** *(C) 224, Minneapolis, MN*
4. **KID KASH** *(4) 202, Johnson City, TN*
5. **THE SANDMAN** *(–) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
6. **NOVA** *(8) 214, Bricktown, NJ*
7. **NEW JACK** *(–) 225, Philadelphia, PA*
8. **C.W. ANDERSON** *(6) 230, Raleigh, NC*
9. **YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI** *(–) 224, Tokyo, Japan*
10. **ROADKILL** *(–) 325, Lancaster, PA*

NWA

NWA Champion:
MIKE RAPADA
(C) 231, Colorado Springs, CO

1. **STONE MOUNTAIN** *(1) 350, Stone Mountain, GA*
2. **QUINN MAGNUM** *(–) 251, Pittsburgh, PA*
3. **COLT STEELE** *(–) 265, Reno, NV*
4. **JUGGERNAUT** *(2) 217, Fort Worth, TX*
5. **911** *(5) 312, Philadelphia, PA*
6. **NICK DINSMORE** *(4) 226, Jefferson, IN*
7. **BLADE BOUDREAUX** *(–) 230, New Orleans, LA*
8. **ROBBIE ROYCE** *(–) 205, Toronto, Ontario*
9. **ADAM WINDSOR** *(–) 210, Coventry, England*
10. **SABU** *(9) 220, Bombay*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended November 5, 2000

BAD 2 THE BONE WRESTLING: Champion—Regulator; **1**—Peter B. Kennedy; **2**—Steve Marino; **3**—BioHazard; **4**—Josh Garrett; **5**—Bull Pain; **6**—Billy Black; **7**—Maxx Mizery; **8**—PsychoDelic; **9**—T.J. Lightnin'; **10**—Low Rider.

FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS WRESTLING: Champion—Kodo Fuyuki; **1**—Hayabusa; **2**—Tetsuo Kuroda; **3**—Masato Tanaka; **4**—Hisakatsu Oya; **5**—Kintaro Kanemura; **6**—Gedo; **7**—Jado; **8**—Kyoko Inoue; **9**—GOEMON; **10**—Hideki Hosaka.

FUTURE WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Jake Daniels; **1**—Don Montoya; **2**—Twiggy Ramirez; **3**—Rick Blade; **4**—Mike Quackenbush; **5**—Homicide; **6**—Marshall Law; **7**—Ronnie Zukko; **8**—Tommy Idol; **9**—Trent Acid; **10**—Mark Shrader.

MICHINOKU PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Great Sasuke; **2**—Tiger Mask; **3**—Gran Hamada; **4**—Masao Orihara; **5**—CIMA; **6**—Tokyo Magnum; **7**—Sumo Fuji 2000; **8**—Pentagon; **9**—Sasuke The Great; **10**—El Pantera.

NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Mike Hollow; **1**—Bob Evans; **2**—Fred Curry Jr.; **3**—Maverick Wild; **4**—Alex Arion; **5**—Johnny Royal; **6**—Jason Knight; **7**—Wagner Brown; **8**—Zachary Springate III; **9**—Kurt Adonis; **10**—Matt Patterson.

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Gino Blanchard; **1**—Bob Ozark; **2**—Dorty Reid; **3**—Mr. Breeze; **4**—The Intimidator; **5**—John Stone; **6**—Shane Hooker; **7**—The Big E; **8**—Frank Parker; **9**—Rolling Thunder; **10**—Roger Anderson.

NWA FLORIDA: Champion—Adam Windsor; **1**—Brent Cameron Dail; **2**—B. Brian Blair; **3**—Al Greene; **4**—Lex Lovett; **5**—Cyborg; **6**—Barry Windham; **7**—Big Vito DeNucci; **8**—Sweeter Brown Sugar; **9**—Pepe Prado; **10**—Fidel Sierra.

OKLAHOMA PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Rocco Valentino; **1**—Bull Schmitt; **2**—Bolo; **3**—Chief Red Eagle; **4**—Vinnie Valentino; **5**—Big Daddy Moore; **6**—Bolo Jr.; **7**—AWOL; **8**—Grenade; **9**—Brandon Groom; **10**—Heather Savage.

PRO WRESTLING NOAH: Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Jun Akiyama; **2**—Kenta Kobashi; **3**—Mitsuharu Misawa; **4**—Akira Taue; **5**—Yoshihiro Takayama; **6**—Yoshinari Ogawa; **7**—Takao Omori; **8**—Daisuke Ikeda; **9**—Takeshi Rikioh; **10**—Kentaro Shiga.

RHODE ISLAND WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Wolverine; **1**—Danger Boy Alfredo; **2**—Danny Cama; **3**—Thrash; **4**—Dave Padula; **5**—Mael; **6**—Lord Davios; **7**—Pierre The Mountie; **8**—Danny Boy O'Callaghan; **9**—The Intern; **10**—Cassy Straytor.

SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Johnny Angel; **1**—Cpl. Payne; **2**—King Kong Bundy; **3**—Don Vega; **4**—Trent McNeely; **5**—Gino Giovanni; **6**—The Highlight Kid; **7**—Amanda Storm; **8**—Rick Fuller; **9**—The Sun Dragon; **10**—Damian Houston.

VIRGINIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Preston Quinn; **1**—Scab; **2**—Idol X; **3**—Jacey North; **4**—Ray Storm; **5**—Corey James; **6**—2 Damn Smooth; **7**—Robert Royal; **8**—Mervin Snead; **9**—Hot Property; **10**—Chris Jacobs.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
TITLE VACANT

1—KENSUKE SASAKI
(C) 251, Tokyo, Japan
2—MANABU NAKANISHI
(1) 235, Tokyo, Japan
3—MASA CHONO
(3) 235, Tokyo, Japan
4—YUJI NAGATA
(2) 228, Tokyo, Japan
5—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(4) 270, Tokyo, Japan
6—JUSHIN LIGER
(6) 222, Hiroshima, Japan
7—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(5) 223, Tokyo, Japan
8—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(7) 217, Tokyo, Japan
9—KOJI KANEMOTO
(9) 205, Osaka, Japan
10—TATSUHITO TAKAIWA
(8) 227, Tokyo, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
GENICHIRO TENRYU
(2) 235, Tokyo, Japan

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
2—STAN HANSEN
(3) 322, Borger, TX
3—STEVE WILLIAMS
(4) 265, Norman, OK
4—MASA CHONO
(7) 235, Tokyo, Japan
5—KENSUKE SASAKI
(–) 251, Tokyo, Japan
6—MASA FUCHI
(6) 225, Tokyo, Japan
7—TAIYO KEA
(8) 235, Honolulu, HI
8—MIKE BARTON
(5) 263, Austin, TX
9—JOHNNY SMITH
(9) 235, Manchester, England
10—JINSEI SHINZAKI
(–) 223, Tokyo, Japan

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

1—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(–) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
2—CIEN CARAS
(2) 240, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico
3—ATLANTIS
(–) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico
4—PIERROTH JR.
(1) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico
5—TARZAN BOY
(9) 218, Mexico City, Mexico
6—SCORPIO JR.
(7) 195, Nezahaulcoyoti, Mexico
7—MR. NIEBLA
(–) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico
8—BLUE PANTHER
(–) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
9—NEGRO CASAS
(5) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
10—SHOCKER
(–) 185, Guadalajara, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
LATIN LOVER
(C) 190, Monterrey, Mexico

1—HECTOR GARZA
(3) 220, Monterrey, Mexico
2—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(2) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
3—JERRY ESTRADA
(7) 239, Montclova, Mexico
4—SUPER CRAZY
(4) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
5—ABISMO NEGRO
(6) 210, Pachua, Mexico
6—PIRATA MORGAN
(5) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
7—EL CANEK
(10) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
8—CIBERNETICO
(8) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
9—EL TEXANO
(9) 225, Mexico City, Mexico
10—MIL MASCARAS
(–) 254, Mexico City, Mexico

Ratings Analysis

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Steve Corino? Steve Corino? It had to be one of the best stories to come out of ECW in 2000. Remember what a big deal everyone made out of **Justin Credible's** (somewhat) shocking victory over **Tommy Dreamer** for the ECW World title back in April of last year? The same thing happened when **Jerry Lynn** upset Credible in front of his ecstatic and enthusiastic hometown fans in St. Paul, Minnesota, back on October 1.

Steve Corino

Corino winning the ECW World championship, to us, was a much bigger surprise. A year ago, Corino was spending most of his time shooting off his big mouth and getting trounced by **Dusty Rhodes** in ECW. Before that big feud, which was dominated by "The American Dream," he had trouble against Francine. And prior to *that,* he was basically just another independent wrestler. He certainly had talent and could talk a lot of trash, but he didn't do much to distinguish himself from a lot of other indy guys with potential.

A year ago, the odds of him winning one big match on an ECW pay-per-view seemed pretty bad. At this year's November to Remember, he won *two* huge matches to claim the belt. Technically speaking, he beat two opponents within one huge, complicated match, but in essence, he won two matches.

The "Double Jeopardy" main event pitted him against **The Sandman** at the same time (and in the same ring) that World champ Lynn was battling Credible. When Credible and Corino scored simultaneous pinfalls on their respective foes, it was down to the two of them in a one-on-one war for the gold.

Corino not only won cleanly—he did so after **Dawn Marie** betrayed him and kicked him in the groin.

Quite a success story, we must say. We are proud to reward Corino, "The King Of Old School," with his first-ever spot in our Top 10. This month, he gets number eight. Next month … maybe number one!

Anything's possible.

Where's RVD? Steve Corino in the Top 10 and **Rob Van Dam** not in our ratings at all? What is this wacky wrestling world of ours coming to? We never thought we'd see ECW deliver a pay-per-view that didn't feature a match or an appearance by **Rob Van Dam** even though RVD was healthy and still on the ECW roster.

But November to Remember was a pretty exciting show even without "Mr. PPV." Since ECW's top star spent a good portion of the fall shooting a movie in Thailand, he was not available for the show. He was out of the country when Corino, the *13th* man to hold the ECW championship since RVD made his ECW debut in 1996, had his big moment. We'll soon see if he's *finally* ready to make his push for the big belt. We certainly think it's time.

Give it up for The Book. We've learned several things about **Booker T** since he was elevated to main-event status in WCW back in the summer. First off, he is *not* **The Rock**. We can only hope that WCW does not continue to try to market him as a Rock-like character. Booker has a lot going from him, but he does not have the kind of charisma Rock has and can't cut promos as effectively as The Rock. He'll be much better off if he's *not* asked to be anything like The Rock.

Booker T

A second important thing we've learned about Booker is that he has the skills to be a WCW main-eventer. Have you seen a bad Booker-**Jeff Jarrett** bout yet? We didn't think so. For all of Jarrett's talk about being "The Chosen One" and the best wrestler in WCW, he's been humbled by Booker on a pretty regular basis. Haven't you been surprised at just how intense the Booker-**Scott Steiner** matches have been? He survived a lot of those and held on to the belt (at least through the first week of November). He also survived the wrath of **Vince Russo** when Russo was running the show in WCW. Not real easy feats.

We're glad to say that Booker earned his spot atop our Top 10 this month.

That's all for right now! If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings, we want to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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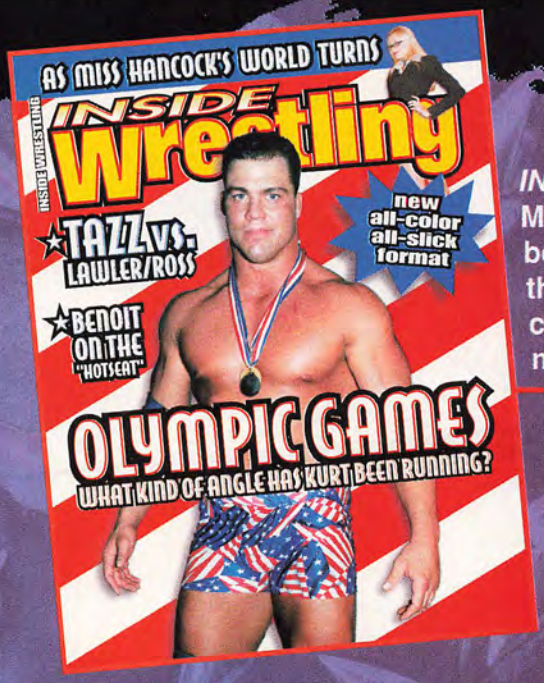

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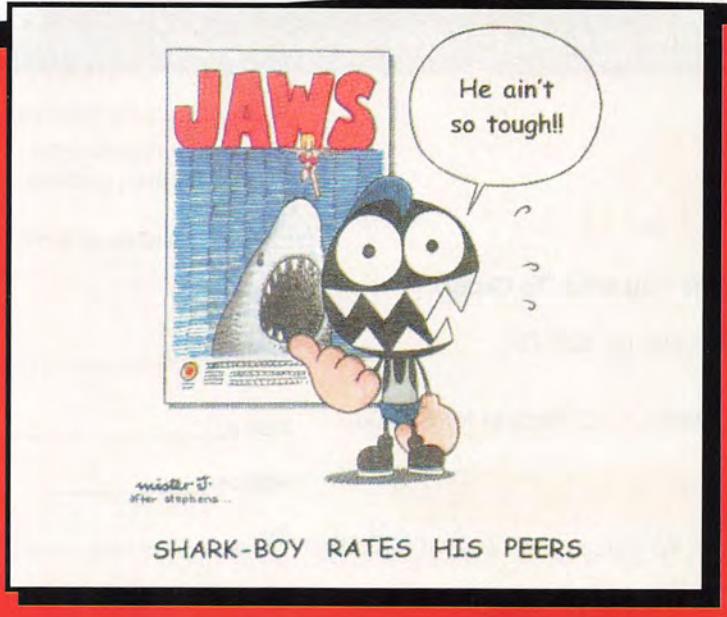
drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan

What can I say JJ? Pete Townsend was a big influence on me growing up. I've just taken it to the next logical step...
Slap Nuts
mister J.

JEFF JARRETT'S GUITAR FIXATION EXPLAINED



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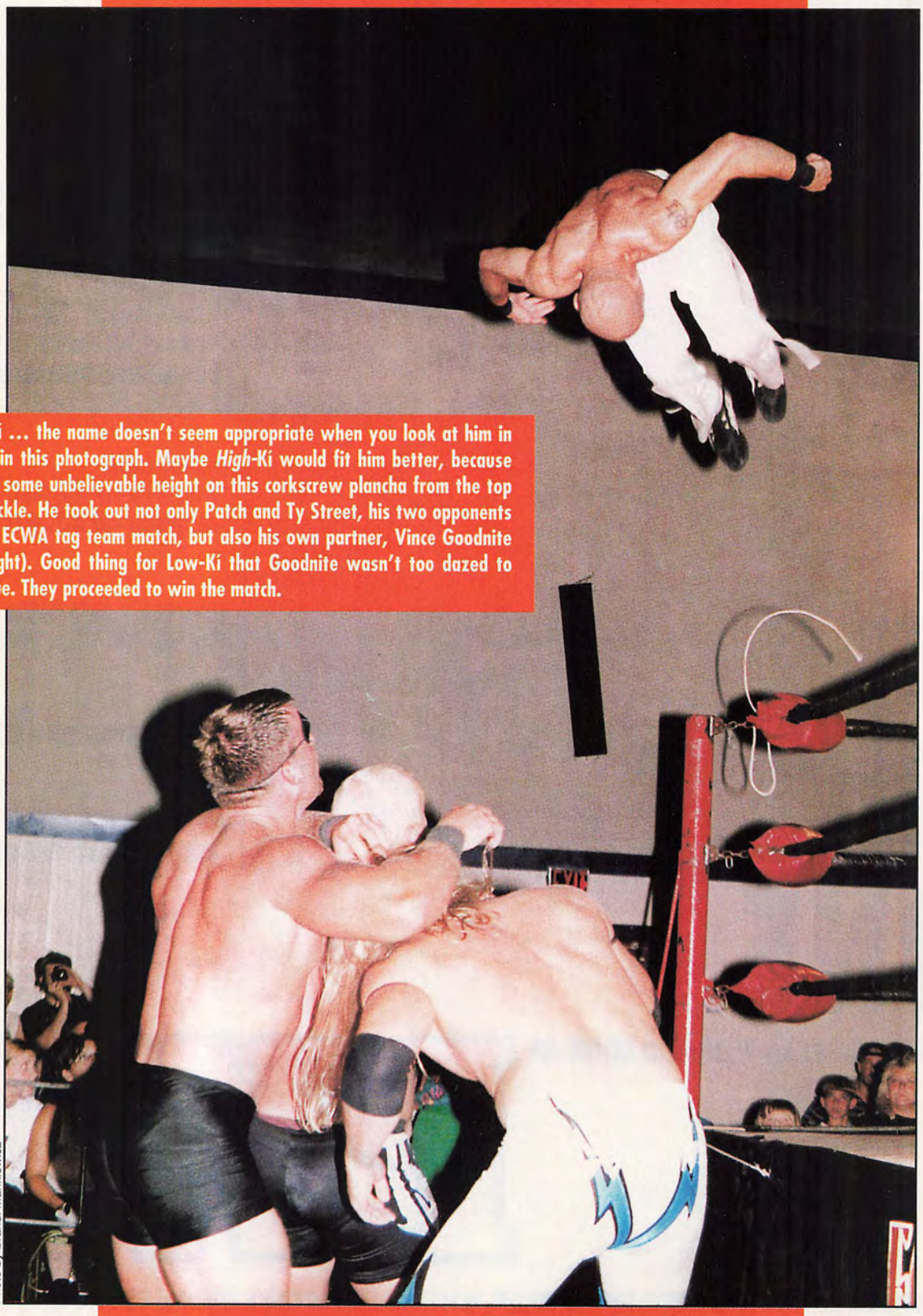

Low-Ki ... the name doesn't seem appropriate when you look at him in action in this photograph. Maybe *High*-Ki would fit him better, because he got some unbelievable height on this corkscrew plancha from the top turnbuckle. He took out not only Patch and Ty Street, his two opponents in this ECWA tag team match, but also his own partner, Vince Goodnite (far right). Good thing for Low-Ki that Goodnite wasn't too dazed to continue. They proceeded to win the match.

Photo by Brandi Mankiewicz

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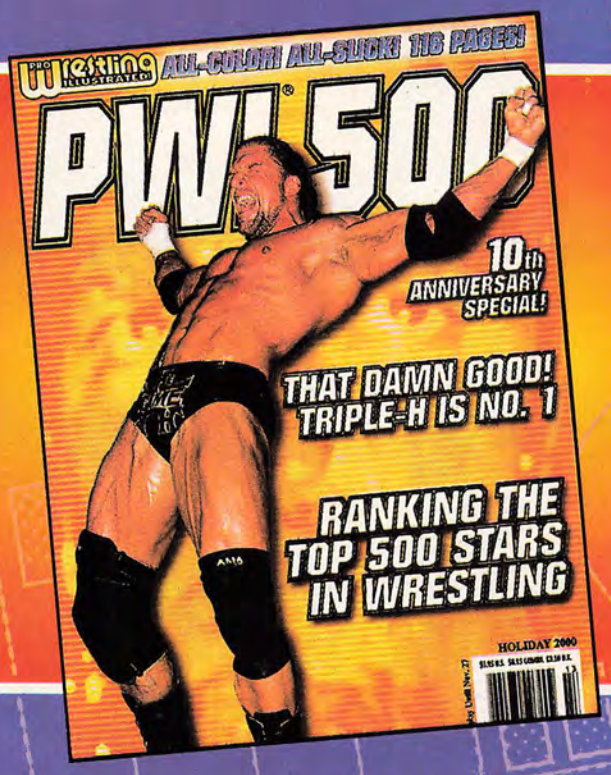
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HOSTED BY WILL WELSH

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